

United States Board on Geographic Names

Foreign Names Committee

Geographic Names Standardization Policy: Iran

Version 2.31



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Foreign Names Committee

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Iran

Version 2.1



1. Introduction

The standardization policies presented below have been prepared to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government data bases, publications, maps, and charts, and are intended to satisfy the statutory requirements levied upon the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in Public Law 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography. This document also is in agreement with the principles set out in the BGN draft standard 'Foreign Geographic Names: Standardization Principles,' of 2004.

2. Scope

The policies described herein are limited to geographic names encountered in Iran and shall be applied to all Iranian geographic name and feature records in the Geographic Names Data Base maintained for U.S. Government purposes by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, as well as to all Iranian geographic names as used by employees and officials of the United States Government.

3. Linguistic Policy

3.1 General Remarks

The most common first language in Iran is Persian (also known as Farsi, Western Farsi, or Western Persian). The ISO 639-3 name for this language is Persian, and the ISO 639-3 code for is FAS.¹ Persian is spoken as a first language by almost thirty-six percent of the population of Iran (Iran's 2005 population was estimated at 68,017,860 by the *CIA World Factbook*), and is the only language used in official Iranian government documents. Within the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages, Persian is a member of the West Iranian group. It is genetically related to Dari, Luri, Baluchi, and Kurdish. It is not genetically related to Arabic (a member of the Semitic language family), but has borrowed many Arabic words and expressions. Collectively, Persian and other Indo-Iranian languages are spoken as first languages by approximately seventy percent of Iranians.

Other major language families spoken in Iran include Turkic languages (principally Azerbaijani, Qashqa'i, and Turkmen) and Semitic languages (principally Arabic and Assyrian). For a list of other languages spoken in Iran, see Appendix A. For a map of languages spoken in Iran, see Appendix B.

3.2 National Language

The national language of Iran is Persian, as specified in Article 15 of the Iranian Constitution (source: Flanz (ed.) 1998, volume IX; see also <http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ir000000.html>):

¹ This language is considered a macrolanguage under ISO 639-3.

"Article 15: The Official Language and script of Iran, the lingua franca of its people, is Persian. Official documents, correspondence, and texts, as well as text-books, must be in this language and script. However, the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools, is allowed in addition to Persian."

The only other language specifically mentioned in the Iranian constitution is Arabic. Arabic is not an official language in Iran, though its teaching is mandated by Article 16 of the Constitution at post-elementary levels:

"Article 16: Since the language of the Qur'ān and Islamic texts and teachings in Arabic, and since Persian literature is thoroughly permeated by this language, it must be taught after elementary level, in all classes of secondary school and in all areas of study." (Glanz, op. cit)

3.2.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Official sources of Iran are produced only in Persian, occasionally supplemented with English-language maps. No official geographic sources are published in any other minority language of Iran.

3.2.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.2.2.1 Alphabet

Approved Persian-script toponyms for Iran are written in a modified version of the Arabic script, hereafter referred to as the Perso-Arabic script. Like Arabic, it is written from right to left. It has no case distinction between capital and lower-case letters. Each letter appears in up to four forms: initial, medial, final, and isolated. Some letters join either on the right or the left side with adjoining characters. The Persian alphabet differs from the standard Arabic alphabet by the addition of four letters: چ(cheh), ژ(zheh), پ(peh), and گ(gaf), making thirty-two letters all together. Final ي (yeh) is typically written without the dots as ی, though in medial and initial forms, it is written with dots.

The dictionary order of the Persian alphabet is shown in table 1 below:

Table 1: Dictionary Order of Persian Alphabet

Position	Letter	Position	Letter	Position	Letter
1	ا Alef māddeh	11	ذ zāl	22	غ Gheyn
1a	ا Alef	12	ر Re	23	ف Fe
2	ب Be	13	ز Ze	24	ق Qāf
3	پ Pe	14	ژ Zhe	25	ک ² Kāf
4	ت Te	15	س Sīn	26	گ Gāf
5	ث Se	16	ش Shīn	27	ل Lām
6	ج Jīm	17	ص Šād	28	م Mīm
7	چ Che	18	ض Zād	29	ن Nūn
8	ح Ḥe	19	ط Ṭeyn	30	و Vāv
9	خ Khe	20	ظ Zẓeyn	31	ه He
10	د Dāl	21	ع ‘Ayn	32	ی Ye

² Isolated and final Kāf is often written without the hamzeh in Persian orthography.

Persian numerals, known colloquially as 'Hindi' numerals, are written as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Persian Numerals

Table 2. Persian Numerals

0 : ۰	1 : ۱	2 : ۲	3 : ۳	4 : ۴, ۴	5 : ۵, ۵	6 : ۶, ۶	7 : ۷	8 : ۸	9 : ۹
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Numerals are written left-to-right, even though otherwise Persian is written right-to-left.

3.2.2.2 *Special Characters*

The following special characters are approved for Persian-script Iranian toponyms.

- ۚ (hamzeh) (See Mace 2003: 17ff). Not listed as part of the Persian alphabet, but does represent several sounds. Hamzeh has a different value depending on whether it occurs in an Arabic or Persian word. In Persian words, hamzeh written above silent final ۰ represents /ye/ for ezāfeh compounds. It is only occasionally written in this context, and is more often left unwritten. Hamzeh written above final ۛ as ۛ, also uncommon, represents the ending /iye/, for ezāfeh for words ending in -i.
- ۞ (teh marbuta). Found only in Arabic words; should not occur in Persian toponyms.
- The combinations of kāf or gāf and alef or lām are written with the special characters: ڪ, ڦ etc.

3.2.2.3 *Diacritics*

The following diacritics are approved for Persian-script Iranian toponyms.

- َ (zebar or fatheh): represents the vowel /a/.
- ِ (zammeh or pish): represents the vowel /o/.
- ِ (zīr or kasreh): represents the vowel /e/.
- ّ (shaddeh): written above a consonant to indicate a geminate (doubled) consonant. Rarely written outside of textbooks.
- ْ (sokun or jazm): Written above a consonant to indicate that it is pronounced silently, i.e. with no attached vowel. Rarely written outside of textbooks.
- ً (tanvin): Written after ālef to indicate an adverbial suffix, pronounced 'an'.
- ̣ (maddeh): Used initially only, over ālef, indicates long initial ālef.

3.2.2.4 *Approved Transliteration System*

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Persian geographic names are to be transliterated using the 1956 BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Persian. The system can be found in the publication *Romanization Systems and Roman Script Spelling Conventions* (1994), published by the Defense Mapping Agency. For convenience, the transliteration system is included as Appendix C of this document.

3.2.2.5 Other Transliteration Systems

Other transliteration systems likely to be encountered for toponyms include:

- The Transliteration/Transcription system of the National Cartography Center (NCC) of Iran.
- The American Library Association – Library of Congress system
- The Intelligence Community Persian Transliteration Standard for Personal Names
- *Encyclopedia of Islam* System.

The NCC is promulgating a new transliteration system for ‘broad transcription of geographic names,’ which may become a more widely accepted standard in the future.³ The NCC transliteration system, developed in partnership with linguists from Tehran University, was approved for use by the NCC in 2003, ‘as the system and procedure for preparing broad transcriptions of toponymic items be (sic) NCC. Newer official and quasi-official sources (for example, newer volumes of 6.2.1, also 6.2.3) appear to be using the NCC broad transcription system. For a comparison between the BGN and other transliteration systems for Persian, see Appendix D.

3.2.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

Since short vowels are typically not shown in Persian script, short vowels need to be reconstructed before the approved form of an Iranian name can be determined. If an official source which contains a Romanized form is available, then the short vowels are taken from that Romanized form. However, if an official Romanized form is not available, general BGN policy states that in such cases, the short vowels are to be reconstructed by looking up the elements of the toponym in a dictionary.

Per a decision of the FNC (December 21, 1953), Persian geographic names for which there is no native evidence (i.e. only a foreign source exists) are not converted to the BGN/PCGN System unless the etymology is certain; but generic terms and particles in such names, where recognizable, are standardized according to the BGN/PCGN System.

The following diacritic marks are permitted in romanized standardized name forms in Iran, as shown in Table 3:

Table 3: Diacritic Marks used in BGN Approved Toponyms for Iran

Character Name	Character	Character Name	Character
Lowercase a with acute accent	á	Uppercase a with acute accent	Á
Lowercase a with macron	ā	Uppercase a with macron	Ā
Lowercase h with cedilla	ħ	Uppercase h with cedilla	Ĥ
Lowercase i with macron	ī	Uppercase i with macron	Ī
Lowercase s with macron	ṣ	Uppercase s with macron	Ṣ
Lowercase s with cedilla	ş	Uppercase s with cedilla	Ş
Lowercase t with cedilla	ţ	Uppercase t with cedilla	Ț
Lowercase u with macron	ū	Uppercase u with macron	Ū
Lowercase z with macron	ẏ	Uppercase z with macron	Z

³ See UNGEGN 22nd Conference, ‘Report Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran’ (2004).

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Lowercase z with sub-macron	ẓ	Uppercase z with sub-macron	Ẓ
Lowercase z with cedilla	ẓ	Uppercase z with cedilla	Ẓ

The apostrophe (') and inverted apostrophe (‘) are special symbols, and are permitted in the romanized forms of geographic names. The single high reversed-9 quote (ˊ) is not permitted in Romanized official names for Iran. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics. Diacritic marks other than the ones listed in Table 3 above are not permitted in official names for Iran.

3.2.4 Pronunciation

While the BGN has not traditionally considered pronunciation to be within its purview, general guidance on the pronunciation of Persian letters and their romanized equivalents is given in Appendix E.

3.2.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

3.2.5.1 Abbreviations

Abbreviations are rarely found on official sources produced by Iran. One which is found is در (Dr), an abbreviation for ‘doktor’ *doctor*, a common element in street names; in Romanized official names, در (Dr) is replaced with ‘Doktor.’

3.2.5.2 Generic terms and feature designations

In names which contain a generic term in addition to a specific name element, the generic term precedes the specific name element in most instances, usually connected by an *ezāfeh* suffix. When the generic term follows the specific, typically no *ezāfeh* suffix is used in the approved form of the name.

Feature designations refer to the geomorphological nature of the feature, not to its generic term’s translation.

A feature is classified as a mountain if it is 300 meters or more above the surrounding landscape. Otherwise, it is classified as a hill.

3.2.5.3 Hyphenation and capitalization

Hyphenation is rare in Persian geographic names, occurring primarily in certain highway names. If a hyphen does occur in an official Iranian name, it is included in the approved Romanized form of the name as well. Moreover, in approved Romanized name forms, the relational (*ezāfeh*) suffixes -e and -ye are attached to nouns with a hyphen, e.g., Borj-e Qal’eh and Gerd)-ye ‘Oly♠ (see 3.2.5.6 below). Ηψπηνενσ σιουλδ νοτ αλσο βε αδδεδ αφτερ τηε *ezāfeh* suffix. BGN policy on hyphenation within cardinal numbers that occur in geographic names have not been fully developed.

Iranian names, when written in romanized form, are written in upper- and lowercase letters. All name elements are written with an initial uppercase letter, except for the conjunction “va,” meaning “and” and the various Persian forms of the Arabic definite article ال, for example, ‘al’, ‘ed,’ ‘od,’ ‘ol,’ ‘osh,’ when those elements occur in non-initial position in a name.

3.2.5.4 Numbers

Arabic numerals and Roman numerals are rarely found in Persian geographic names, though numerals do occur frequently in street names. When numerals do occur in native names, according to BGN policy, they are written out in Persian orthography before being transliterated.

BGN Policy on proper vocalization and hyphenation of the letter ‘vav’ in numerals greater than twenty, for example بیستویک ‘bīst ve yak’ *twenty-one*, is currently under discussion.

Knowledge of Persian numerals is necessary in order to read geographic coordinates from official Iranian maps.

3.2.5.5 Optional long- and short-form names

All first-order administrative divisions are accorded both long- and short-form names, e.g., Semnān [short form]; Ostān-e Semnān [long form, which includes the generic Ostān-e, μεα νινυ ε προ πινχε ο φε]. Lower-order administrative divisions may also be accorded optional short forms. Certain rivers in Iran are also accorded optional short forms. Names of railroad stations that appear on official sources with the generic term *stg h* are given both long- and short-form names as supported by official evidence.

3.2.5.6 List of Approved Conventional Names

As of November 30, 2005, the following conventional names had been approved by the BGN for features within Iran.

Aras River
Azerbaijan
Baluchistan
Clarence Strait
Elburz Mountains
Iran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Lake Urmia
Makran
Makran Coast
Pasargadae
Persepolis
Shatt al Arab
Zagros Mountains

3.2.5.7 Ezāfeh Compounds

3.2.5.7.1 General Remarks

The ezāfeh (compounding or relational) suffix is an important grammatical marker in Persian. It is pronounced /eh/ or /yeh/, depending on whether it is attached to a word ending in a consonant or a vowel. In geographic names, ezāfeh is used in the following cases:

Noun 1 + Noun 2, where Noun 1 is possessed by Noun 2. Example: راه فرودگاه rāh-e forūdghāh, ‘airport road.’

Noun 1 + Noun 2, where noun2 is in apposition to noun 1. Example: شهر تهران : Shahr-e Tehrān, 'City of Tehran.'

To express distance from a point, as in the following example:

در مسافت شش میلی (masāfat-e), at a distance of six miles

Preposition + Noun. Example: جلو خانه: jelow-ye khāneh, in front of the house.

Noun + Adjective, where the noun is modified by the adjective. Example: کوه سیاه Kūh-e Sīāh.

The ezāfeh is romanized as –e or –ye according to Note 8 of the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Persian. However, since ezāfeh is only rarely written in Persian, it is often difficult to determine when to write it in toponyms, and when not to.

3.2.5.7.2 Specific Rules for Persian ezāfeh

The following rules represent the BGN policy on when to write ezāfeh in Romanized Persian geographic names of Iran.

- i. Include the ezāfeh in Romanized toponyms when it is explicitly written using hamzeh above final heh, or hamzeh above final yeh. Romanize the ezāfeh in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1956 Persian Romanization System.
- ii. Include the ezāfeh in Romanized toponyms when it is found written out in a Romanized toponym listed in an official source from the National names authority of Iran (see section 4), such as the NGO Gazetteers Series.
- iii. When ezāfeh is not explicitly written, use the following rules for Romanization, in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1956 Persian Romanization System:

iii (a). کوه: kūh, mountain. Always write '–e' after kūh when it begins the name. Never use the ezāfeh after kūh when it ends the name.

کوه فارس	Kūh-e Fars
کوه اسطخ	Kūh-e Esṭelakh
but	
سیاه کوه	Sīāh Kūh

(Occasional approved exceptions to this rule occur.)

iii (b). تپه: tappeh, hill. Write '–ye' after *tappeh* when it begins the name, but not after *tappeh* when it ends the name. Occasionally, exceptions occur when in the first instance (*tappeh* comes first) but is followed by a color-word or by a one-syllable specific geographic name. Sometimes, the one-syllable specific name will still take a '–ye,' depending on the part of the nation that it comes from. With a two (or more) syllable specific name, retain the '–ye'. (Note: See the further note below with use of the Turkish endings 'sī' and 'sū'.)

تپه یخگان	Tappeh-ye Yakhalgān
-----------	---------------------

<i>but</i>	
قره تپه	Qareh Tappeh
<i>however</i>	
تپه سرخه	Tappeh Sorkheh

iii (c). باغ : bāgh, *garden*; دره : darreh, *valley*. In most cases, bāgh and darreh follow the rules for tappeh (iiib)

باغ ریشه	Bāgh-e Rīsheh
<i>but</i>	
قله باغ	Qolleh Bāgh
دره بنار	Darreh-ye Bonār
<i>but</i>	
کلک دره	Kalak Darreh

iii (d). Common place-name modifiers: Always use an ezāfeh with a following word that designates elevation, or size, or age, or direction (e.g., soflā, voštā, `olyā, bālā, vasaṭ, pā`īn, mīānī, bozorg, now, gharbī, jonūbī, sharqī, shomālī).

باریم قیه سفلی	Yārīm Qayeh-e Soflá
بالاد بالا	Bālād-e Bālā
صالح آباد بزرگ	Šāleḥābād-e Bozorg
محمود آباد نو	Maḥmūdābād-e Now
کرگی شمالی	Korgī-ye Shomālī

iii (e). Other noun modifiers: Use an ezāfeh to modify common generic terms used in place names.

Name of a sea or ocean	
دریای خزر	Daryā-ye Khazar (Caspian Sea, ezāfeh explicitly written with yeh)
Name of a stream or river	
رود ارس	Rūd-e Aras
<i>but</i>	
بیزینه رود	Bīzīneh Rūd
Name of a river	
رودخانه گدار	Rūdkhāneh-ye Godār
Name of a mouth, estuary, or channel	
خور بش	Khovr-e Besh
Name of a spring	
چشمه گل میری	Cheshmeh-ye Gol Mīrī
<i>but</i>	
سه چشمه	Seh Cheshmeh
Name of a desert, plain, or field	
دشت گواتر	Dasht-e Gavāter
<i>but</i>	

کران دشت	Karān Dasht
Name of a pass or defile گردنه بزرگینا <i>but</i> نازر گردنه	Gardaneh-ye Bozsīnā Nāzar Gardaneh
Name of a flat, higher place تخت روان سفلی <i>but</i> شاه تخت	Takht-e Ravān-e Soflá Shāh Takht
Name of a farm or hamlet کلاته رمش <i>but</i> میر کلاته	Kalāteh-ye Ramesh Mīr Kalāteh
Name of a mosque مسجد بلال <i>but</i> قبله مسجد	Masjed-e Balāl Qebleh Masjed
Name of a pilgrimage place زیارتگاه بابا کوه <i>and</i> باغ زیارتگاه	Ziāratgāh-e Bābā Kūh Bāgh-e Ziāratgāh
Name of a fortress or castle قلعه سرخ <i>but</i> تازه قلعه	Qal`eh-ye Sorkh Tāzeh Qal`eh
Name of a palace or castle قصر عزیز خان <i>but</i> حاجی قصر	Qaṣr-e `Azīz Khān Hājī Qaṣr
Name of an inn or caravanserai رباط جز <i>but</i> قرجه رباط	Robāṭ-e Jaz (or Rebāṭ-e Jaz) Qarajeh Robāṭ
Name of a station ایستگاه سبز	Īstgāh-e Sabzow

- iii (f). امامزاده : emāmzādeh, *shrine*: In general, ezāfeh is not written following the word emāmzādeh, except in the very rare instance of it being the modifier.
امامزاده ابراهیم
but
درب امامزاده

Emāmzādeh Ebrāhīm

Darb-e Emāmzādeh

-APPROVED-

iii (g). Turkish Possessive Suffixes: When a word originates from a Turkic language (Azerbaijani, Qashqa'i, or Turkmen) and ends with 'ı', 'ü', 'sı', or 'sü', the *ezāfeh* is not written, because the Turkish ending already encompasses the possessive/descriptive function.

تولکی تپه سی

Tülkī Tappehsī
(not Tülkī-ye Tappehsī)

iii (h). For features named after famous persons, *ezāfeh* is not written in approved Romanized forms, unless the feature was in fact possessed by the person it was named for.

3.2.5.8 Arabic Borrowings

Arabic borrowings are found in some Iranian toponyms. They can sometimes be recognized by the presence of non-Persian letters: ص:ض:ح:غ:ع:ط:ظ:ث. Though they are Arabic words in origin, they are Romanized using the BGN Romanization System for Persian, not the corresponding Romanization System for Arabic. See Notes 5 and 7 in the *Romanization Guide*, 'Romanization System for Persian' for examples of their treatment.

3.2.5.9 Word Division

Word division is less standardized in modern Persian than in certain other languages. There is more variation in whether certain official geographic names are written with or without a word break (i.e. as one or as two words). A proposal is currently under discussion whereby BGN/PCGN approved Romanized names will be written as one word, if they contain any of the terms given in Table 4 below as their second element:

Table 4: Proposed Geographic name Elements written without Word Break

Native Form	Transliteration	Meaning
آباد	ābād	'place
آسیاب	āsīāb	'mill
گاه	gāh	'place'
خان	khān	'ruler
خانه	khāneh	'house
نو	now	'new'
سرای	sarāy	'inn'
شاه	shāh	'king
شهر	shahr	'city'
زاده	zādeh	'progeny

3.2.5.10 Short Vowels in Persian Names of Turkic Etymology

In Persian-language Iranizan names of Azerbaijani, Qashqa'i, or Turkmen etymology, when the plural suffix 'lar'/'ler' is found, it shall be Romanized with the vowel 'e' or 'a' according to the rules of Turkic vowel harmony: it shall be Romanized as 'lar' following a syllable containing a back vowel, and 'ler' following a syllable containing a front vowel.

3.2.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

There is wide variation in dialectal forms of Persian. However, official Iranian mapping privileges the Tehran dialect of Persian. BGN policy thus prefers this form for approved names. Names in other dialects of Persian may be entered as variants.

In toponyms, one area where this variation is observed is in transposition or simplification of consonant clusters. For example, Tehran Persian has 'qofl' for *canal*, but rural dialects have 'qolf'. Another area where dialectal variation is observed in Iranian toponymy is in the words for north and south: educated Iranians tend to pronounce these words as 'shomālī' and 'jonūbī', but rural dialects and less educated dialects pronounce these same terms as 'shemālī' and 'janūbī.' Current BGN policy for approved names favors the 'shemālī' and 'janūbī' forms.

3.3 Minority Languages

Language names and definitions used by the BGN are taken from the standard list of language names and codes approved by the Defense Language Office, which itself is a subset of the ISO 639-3 Draft Standard for language names and codes. For geographic names, 'language' is taken to refer to the language of the source for the name, not the language of the names etymology. The source of population figures for these minority languages is the *Ethnologue*.

3.3.1 Arabic

3.3.1.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

The language code for Modern Standard Arabic is ARA. Arabic as a minority language of Iran is spoken in the Southwestern portion of the country, principally in Khūzestān Province. Speakers of Arabic as a first language account for approximately two and one quarter percent of the population of Iran. Though the teaching of Arabic is mandated by the constitution (see §3.2), Arabic-language toponyms are not recognized separately by the Iranian national names authority. In Khūzestān Province, Persian morphology is used in official names even where the elements of those names are etymologically derived from Arabic: for example, in 'Nahr-e Hayer' the approved form includes the Persian *eẓāfeh*, even though the specific and generic elements of the name are both derived from Arabic. Therefore, Arabic-language names for Iran are treated as variants by the BGN. In the unusual case where no Persian name for an Iranian feature is available, but an Arabic name is available, that name is treated as 'unverified.'

3.3.1.2 Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)

3.3.1.2.1 Alphabets

Arabic language names in Iran, though not encountered in official sources, would be written in the same alphabet used by Persian.

3.3.1.2.2 Diacritics

The same diacritics described in 3.2.2.3 are used to write Arabic names in Iran.

3.3.1.2.3 Approved Transliteration System(s)

Arabic-language names for Iranian geographic features are transliterated using the BGN/PCGN System of Romanization for Arabic.

3.3.1.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

(Not Applicable)

3.3.1.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

Arabic names for which there is no native evidence are not converted to the BGN transliteration system unless the etymology is certain but generic terms and particles in such names, where recognizable, are standardized according to the BGN/PCGN System

3.3.1.4 Pronunciation

Transliterated Arabic-language geographic names in Iran are pronounced according to the pronunciation table given in Appendix D, which is also appropriate for Persian.

3.3.1.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

(Not Applicable)

3.3.1.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

Arabic speakers within Iran form a unified dialect community with Arabic speakers in Iraq. Mesopotamian Arabic is the approved name for this dialect, code ACM.

3.3.2 Azerbaijani

3.3.2.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Azerbaijani is a Western (Oğuz) Turkic language, closely related to Turkish. The language code for Azerbaijani is AZE. Azerbaijani is spoken as a first language by approximately thirty-seven percent of Iranians, principally living in the northwestern provinces of the country.⁴ The Azerbaijani language was actively suppressed by the Iranian government until 1979, when a ban on publishing Azerbaijani literature in Iran was lifted. Currently, no attempt is made by the Iranian government to provide separate geographic names in the Azerbaijani language. The BGN thus recognizes Azerbaijani-language toponyms in Iran as variant spellings. In the event that no native Persian name is available for a feature, but an Azerbaijani name is available, that name is treated as an unverified name.

3.3.2.2 Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)

3.3.2.2.1 Alphabets

Azerbaijani in Iran is written using the Persian alphabet as described in 3.2.2, as well as the Azerbaijani Latin alphabet. The Persian alphabet is not well suited for representing the complex vowel system of Turkic languages like Azerbaijani, which has nine vowels. In particular, there is a lack of standardization in how certain vowels in Azerbaijani are represented in the Persian alphabet. There is also some variation in the way front and back velar consonants are written, since these are only quasi-phonemic in Azerbaijani, whereas they are fully contrastive in Persian. Some attempts are currently being made within the Azerbaijani community in Iran and the broader pan-Turkic movement to propose a modified version of the Arabic script which is more suited to the characteristics of Azerbaijani.

⁴ Note the different spellings of the language name ‘Azerbaijani’ and the two Iranian provinces Ostān-e Āzarbāyjān-e Gharbī and Ostān-e Āzarbāyjān-e Sharqī.

3.3.2.2.2 Diacritics

Special diacritics have been proposed by the Seminar on Turkish Orthography, Tehran, for the standardization of the writing of Azerbaijani in Arabic script. These diacritics are shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Diacritics used in the writing of Azerbaijani in Arabic Script in Iran

<i>Diacritic</i>	<i>Azerbaijani Latin Equivalent</i>
آ	a, A
اِ	i, I
وْ	o, O
وُ	u, U
ئِ	e, E
ؤْ	ö, Ö
ؤُ	ü, Ü

3.3.2.2.3 Approved Transliteration System(s)

Native Iranian toponyms which happen to be of Azerbaijani etymology are transliterated using the BGN/PCGN Persian Transliteration System. As Azerbaijani-language sources of Iranian geographic names become available, they will be accepted as variant spellings, and will be transliterated into Latin-script Azerbaijani using the orthographic correspondences promulgated by the Seminar on Turkish Orthography, Tehran (http://Azerbaijani.org/Azerbaijani/az_arabic/arabic_index.html).

3.3.2.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

No other important transliteration systems for Azerbaijani geographic names in Iran are known.

3.3.2.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

When Persian-language Iranian geographic names which are of Azerbaijani etymology are transliterated, a Persian dictionary shall be consulted to determine which vowels should be used. If the elements of the name cannot be found in the Persian dictionary, an Azerbaijani dictionary may be consulted.

3.3.2.4 Pronunciation

Azerbaijani-language geographic names in Iran are pronounced using the nine vowel sounds and twenty-three consonant sounds of standard Azerbaijani. The upside-down 'e' Ə, ə (also known as schwa) is pronounced like American 'a' as in 'bat'. Back vowels with diaeresis ö, Ö, and ü, Ü are pronounced like German ö, Ö, and ü, Ü. The i without a dot is pronounced as a high front unrounded vowel, similar to the Californian surfer pronunciation of the American word 'cool.' G with a breve - ğ (soft, or yumuşak geh) is pronounced as a voiced velar fricative, like Greek gamma, or Arabic ghayn. X is pronounced as a voiceless velar fricative, like the Scottish 'ch' as in 'loch.' Q is pronounced as a voiceless back-velar or uvular stop, like the Arabic 'qaf.' J is pronounced as a voiced alveo-palatal fricative, as in the medial sound in English 'measure.' Ç (c with cedilla) is pronounced as English 'ch', like in 'child.' Ş (s with cedilla) is pronounced as English 'sh', like in 'ship.' Other sounds are similar enough to their English equivalents so as not to demand special note.

3.3.2.5 *Technical Treatment of Geographic Names*

NA

3.3.2.6 *Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?*

Azerbaijani spoken in Iran is part of the South Azerbaijani dialect. The code for this dialect is AZB. Since Azerbaijani within Iran has only recently begun to be standardized, much dialectal variation can be expected.

3.3.3 Baluchi

3.3.3.1 *Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography*

Baluchi is an Indo-Iranian language closely related to Kurdish. The language code for Baluchi is BAL. It is spoken in the eastern part of Iran, principally in the province of Sīstān va Bāluchestān. Speakers of Baluchi as a first language make up between one and two percent of the population of Iran. It is also spoken in the western part of Pakistan. The use of Baluchi, like other minority languages of Iran, is not encouraged, and no government-sponsored mapping in Baluchi takes place. The BGN thus does not approve 'native' names in the Baluchi language. Such Baluchi-language names as are found are treated as variants. In the event that a Baluchi name is available for a feature in Iran for which a Persian name is not available, the Baluchi name is treated as an unverified spelling.

3.3.3.2 *Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)*

3.3.3.2.1 *Alphabets*

Baluchi in Iran is written in the nastaliq form of the Arabic script, the same script used to write Urdu in Pakistan. It contains several additional letters not used in Persian, as shown in Table 6:

Table 6: Additional Letters used in Baluchi Orthography

<i>Baluchi Letter</i>	<i>Phonetic Value</i>
ٹ	voiceless alveolar retroflex stop
ٚ	voiced alveolar retroflex stop
ڄ	alveolar retroflex flap
ٺ	tense mid-front unrounded long vowel (word-final only)
ٺ	indicates nasalization of preceding vowel
ھ	Indicates aspiration of preceding stop or affricate consonant

3.3.3.2.2 *Diacritics*

The diacritics used in Baluchi are essentially the same as in Persian, as described in 3.2.2.2.

3.3.3.2.3 *Approved Transliteration System(s)*

-APPROVED-

There is currently no BGN-approved transliteration system for Baluchi. The BGN is actively working on creating or identifying such a system.

3.3.3.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

None known.

3.3.3.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

There are no BGN-approved general spelling rules for Baluchi-language toponyms.

3.3.3.4 Pronunciation

Pronunciation rules for Baluchi toponyms in Iran await the development of an approved transliteration system for Baluchi.

3.3.3.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

Baluchi, like other Indo-Iranian languages, distinguishes between two cases: direct and oblique. Approved toponym elements are in the direct case, unless they are the object of a postposition, in which case they are in oblique form.

3.3.3.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

The Baluchi spoken in Iran is part of the western group of Baluchi dialects, and the most important sub-dialects within it are the coastal (Makrani) and the northern (Rakhshani) dialects. The dialect code for Western Baluchi is BGN. There is variation in the phonetic values of certain phonemes across the different Baluchi dialects, and such variation can be expected in geographic names. In particular, interdental fricatives are found in the western Baluchi dialects where the eastern dialects have sibilants. The eastern dialects have voiced and voiceless aspirated stops, like their Indic language neighbors, but these same sounds are not found in the western dialects.

3.3.4 Kurdish*3.3.4.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography*

Kurdish is an Indo-Iranian language, closely related to Baluchi, and more distantly related to Persian. The language code for Kurdish is KUR. Kurdish is spoken as a first language by more than five percent of the inhabitants of Iran, living mainly in the northwest of the country, with additional Kurdish speakers in the northeast provinces (see Appendix A). The Iranian Government has attempted to suppress the use of Kurdish, and no official mapping has been published in the Kurdish language by the Iranian authorities. The BGN thus does not recognize Kurdish language toponyms as official in Iran. Kurdish language names in Iran are treated as variants. In the event that a Kurdish-language name is available for a feature in Iran for which a Persian name is not available, the Kurdish name is treated as an unverified spelling.

*3.3.4.2 Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)**3.3.4.2.1 Alphabets*

Kurdish in Iran is written in the Kurdish form of the Arabic script. Kurds in Iran are also beginning to write Kurdish using the Hawar alphabet, the same version of the Roman alphabet which is used to write Kurdish in Turkey. The Perso-Arabic alphabet for Kurdish includes several special letters and digraphs which are not used in the Persian alphabet, as shown in Table 7, together with their Hawar alphabet equivalents:

Table 7: Special and Additional Letters in Kurdish Perso-Arabic Alphabet

<i>Kurdish Perso-Aracibi Letter</i>	<i>Hawar Alphabet Equivalent</i>
ا / آ	a
ه / هـ	e
و / وە	ê
ي / ی	i
ئ / ئێ	î
ۆ / ۆ	o
و / و	u
وو / وو	û
عە	`e
ئ	ɬ
ر	ṛ
ڤ	v

Note: Initial and medial forms given.

The major feature of the Kurdish Perso-Arabic orthography is that all Kurdish vowels, both long and short, are explicitly written, with the exception of short /i/. As shown in Table 7, the orthography uses modified forms of yah and waw in order to represent the nine vowels of Kurdish, as well as a special form of hah. Certain additional unique spelling conventions are also employed when writing Kurdish in Perso-Arabic script. For example, all initial vowels are written with hamza kursi, not an initial âlef, like other Arabic-based orthographies.

3.3.4.2.2 Diacritics

In addition to the diacritics shown in Table 7 above, the diacritics used in Kurdish are essentially the same as in Persian, as described in 3.2.2.2, with the exception that the shaddeh (tashdid) is not generally used in Kurdish.

3.3.4.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

There is currently no BGN approved transliteration system for Kurdish in Iran. The BGN is working with the PCGN to define an approved system.

3.3.4.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

The two transliteration systems which have been used for recording Kurdish toponyms are the Edmonds' system, which was used for Kurdish names in Iraq, and the Hawar alphabet table of correspondences, which is used by the Library of Congress.

3.3.4.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

None have been developed.

3.3.4.4 Pronunciation

Pronunciation rules for Kurdish await the approval of a transliteration system for Kurdish.

3.3.4.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

None known.

3.3.4.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

There are two main dialects of Kurdish, Kurmanji and Sorani. The Kurdish speakers in Iran largely speak the Sorani dialect. The dialect code for Sorani Kurdish is CKB. Sorani Kurdish has two quasi-phonemic distinctions which have been lost in Kurmanji, and which are found in toponyms: contrast between alveolar /l/ and velarized /ɭ/; contrast between a flapped /r/ and a trilled /r̄/. In addition, Sorani and Kurmanji differ in their pronunciation of ڤ: In Sorani, this letter is pronounced [w], while in Kurmanji, it is pronounced [v].

3.3.5 Luri

3.3.5.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Luri is a member of the Western branch of the Indo-Iranian language family, closely related to Persian. The language code for Luri is LRI. Luri should not be confused with the Luri language of Nigeria, whose code is LDD. Luri is spoken as a first language by almost seven percent of the population of Iran, primarily living in the southwest of the country. No official mapping is performed in Iran in the Luri language, hence the BGN does not recognize Luri-language names as official. Names in the Luri language are treated as variants. In the event that a Luri name is available for a feature in Iran for which a Persian name is not available, the Luri name is treated as an unverified spelling.

3.3.5.2 Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)

3.3.5.2.1 Alphabets

Luri is written in the same alphabet as Persian.

3.3.5.2.2 Diacritics

Luri diacritics are the same as employed in Persian, and described in 3.2.2.2.

3.3.5.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

There is no BGN-approved transliteration system for Luri.

3.3.5.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

No existing transliteration systems for Luri are known.

3.3.5.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

None have been developed.

3.3.5.4 Pronunciation

A pronunciation guide for Luri awaits the development of a transliteration system.

3.3.5.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

None known.

3.3.5.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

Unknown.

3.3.6 Qashqa'i

3.3.6.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Qashqa'i is a member of the Turkic language family, Oğuz branch, most closely related to Azerbaijani and Turkish. The language code for Qashqa'i is QSQ. Qashqa'i is spoken by almost 2 ½ percent of the population of Iran, largely in the southwest of Fars province. Use of Qashqa'i, like other minority languages of Iran, is not encouraged by the Iranian Government, and no official mapping in Qashqa'i has taken place. Consequently, the BGN recognizes Qashqa'i language names only as variant spellings. In the event that a Qashqa'i name is available for a feature in Iran for which a Persian name is not available, the Qashqa'i name is treated as an unverified spelling.

3.3.6.2 Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)

3.3.6.2.1 Alphabets

The Qashqa'i language is largely unwritten. When it has been written down, the nastaliq version of the Perso-Arabic script has been used.

3.3.6.2.2 Diacritics

Diacritical marks for Qashqa'i are the same as described for Persian in 3.2.2.2 above.

3.3.6.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

There is currently no BGN-approved transliteration system for Qashqa'i.

3.3.6.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

None are known.

3.3.6.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

None have been developed.

3.3.6.4 Pronunciation

Pronunciation rules for Qashqa'i await the development of an approved transliteration system.

3.3.6.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

NA

3.3.6.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

Unknown.

-APPROVED-

3.3.7 Turkmen

3.3.7.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Turkmen is a member of the Turkic language family, Oğuz branch, most closely related to Azerbaijani and Turkish. The language code for Turkmen is TUK. Turkmen is spoken as a first language by slightly more than three percent of the population of Iran, largely in the northeast near Māzandarān. Use of Turkmen, like other minority languages of Iran, is not encouraged by the Iranian Government, and no official mapping in Turkmen has taken place. Consequently, the BGN recognizes Turkmen language names only as variant spellings. In the event that a Turkmen name is available for a feature in Iran for which a Persian name is not available, the Turkmen name is treated as an unverified spelling.

3.3.7.2 Alphabet(s) and Transcription(s)

3.3.7.2.1 Alphabets

It is unknown whether Turkmens in Iran use the Turkmen Latin alphabet of Turkmenistan for their writing, or some form of the Perso-Arabic script.

3.3.7.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.7.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

The BGN/PCGN 2002 Turkmen Table of Correspondences is approved for transliteration of Turkmen in Cyrillic script. No approved system for transliterating Turkmen written in Arabic script exists.

3.3.7.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

None known.

3.3.7.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

None have been developed.

3.3.7.4 Pronunciation

The pronunciation of Turkmen names in Iran can be approximated using pronunciation rules of Turkish, Azerbaijani, or Turkmenistan Turkmen.

3.3.7.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

When a Turkmen possessive suffix (i, u, si, su) is used in a compound, the Persian ezāfeh ending is not also written.

3.3.7.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics; how far are dialectal name forms adapted to the standard form of the language?

Unknown.

4. Names Authorities and Names Standardization

4.1 National Names Authorities: Aims, functions, rules, address

The national names authority of Iran is the Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographic Names (ICSGN) (ایران کمیته تخصصی نام نگاری و یکسان سازی نامهای جغرافیایی), associated with the National Geographic Authority (NGO) (سازمان جغرافیایی ملی Sāzmān-e Joghṛāfiā'i-ye Mellī) and the National Cartography Center (مرکز ملی نقشه‌کشی Markaz-e Mellī-ye Naqshhehkašī) (NCC). The mailing address for this organization is:

P.O. Box 13185-1684, Azadi Square
Tehran, Iran
Tel: +98(21) 6000031/37.
Fax: +98(21) 6001972.

Official information on these organizations can be accessed at the following URL: <http://www.geonames.ncc.ir>. Within the ICSGN, transliteration issues are handled by the Transcription Working Group (Islamic Republic of Iran, 2004).

Within the ICSGN, there are working groups for: (a) geographical names website and database; (b) terminology; (c) Romanization; (d) undersea features (new in 2004); (e) exonyms; (f) historical names.

4.2 Provincial Names Authorities: Aims, functions, rules, addresses

There are no provincial names authorities in Iran: all toponymic decisions are centralized.

4.3 Names standardization: Legal aspects, procedures, progress

"Iran officially participated in the United Nations conference on the standardization of Geographical Names from 1967 and different institutions such as Geographic Organization, Armed Forces, Ministry of foreign Affairs, Geography Institute of Tehran University and Surveying Organization have already participated in these sessions as representatives of Iran and have presented the national report, containing internal activates in naming and standardization of geographical names.

"In 2000 , following the resolution of Council of Ministers, the "Specialized Committee for Standardization of Geographic Names of Iran " was held under supervision of National Cartographic Center with the membership of representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (Geographic Institute of Tehran University), Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, Ministry of Defense and Support of Armed Forces (National Geographic Organization), Ministry of post, Telegraph and Telephone and Iranian Statistics Center to follow up these goals:

- To collect data and information on geographical names of the territory
- To arrange for a proper registry and geographical documentation and prevent dispersion in geographical names
- To develop scientific instructions and methods for a proper registry of geographical names
- To [make] uniform and assimilate geographical names in written documents and maps
- To communicate with member countries of Economic and Social Council of the United Nation and to benefit from their experiences in this filed (*sic*)
- To remove international problems resulted from differed geographic names when they are translated into another language.

"The above –mentioned committee was established at the National Cartographic Center on this basis. It has already held frequent meetings in connection with the subjects related to geographical names. The approvals of this committee are informed to different organization and institutes for due execution."

(Source: <http://www.khzi.com/geonames.ir/e-main.htm>)

5. Political Geographic Policy

5.1. Country name

5.1.1 Conventional short form:

Iran

5.1.2. Conventional long form:

Islamic Republic of Iran

5.1.3 Native short form:

Īrān; ایران

5.1.4 Native long form:

Jomhūrī-ye Eslāmī-ye Īrān; جمهوری اسلامی ایران

5.2 First-order administrative divisions and FIPS codes

The BGN recognizes the following structure of administrative divisions in Iran: it recognizes استان - ostān as the first-order administrative division (ADM1); it recognizes شهرستان - shahrestān as the second-order administrative division (ADM2); بخش - baghsh as the third-order administrative division (ADM3); and دهستان - dehestān as the fourth-order administrative division (ADM4).

<i>Approved Name</i>	<i>Generic Element</i>	<i>FIPS-10 Code</i>
Ostān-e Āzarbāyjān-e Gharbī	Ostān	IR01
Ostān-e Āzarbāyjān-e Sharqī	Ostān	IR33
Ostān-e Chahār Maḥāll va Bakhtīārī	Ostān	IR03
Ostān-e Sīstān va Balūchestān	Ostān	IR04
Ostān-e Kohgīlūyeh va Būyer Aḥmad	Ostān	IR05
Ostān-e Fārs	Ostān	IR07
Ostān-e Gilān	Ostān	IR08
Ostān-e Hamadān	Ostān	IR09
Ostān-e Īlām	Ostān	IR10
Ostān-e Hormozgān	Ostān	IR11
Ostān-e Kermānshāh	Ostān	IR13
Ostān-e Khūzestān	Ostān	IR15
Ostān-e Kordestān	Ostān	IR16
Ostān-e Semnān	Ostān	IR25
Ostān-e Būshehr	Ostān	IR22
Ostān-e Lorestān	Ostān	IR23

Ostān-e Tehrān	Ostān	IR26
Ostān-e Eṣfahān	Ostān	IR28
Ostān-e Kermān	Ostān	IR29
Ostān-e Yazd	Ostān	IR40
Ostān-e Ardabīl	Ostān	IR32
Ostān-e Markazī	Ostān	IR34
Ostān-e Māzandarān	Ostān	IR35
Ostān-e Zanjān	Ostān	IR36
Ostān-e Golestān	Ostān	IR37
Ostān-e Qazvīn	Ostān	IR38
Ostān-e Qom	Ostān	IR39
Ostān-e Khorāsān-e Janūbī	Ostān	IR41
Ostān-e Khorāsān-e Razavī	Ostān	IR42
Ostān-e Khorāsān-e Shemālī	Ostān	IR43

5.3 Unique geopolitical situations

5.3.1 Disputed Names

Iran and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula use different names for the body of water between them. Iran uses *Khalīj-e Fārs* (Persian Gulf). The Arabian countries use the name *Al-Khalīj al-Arabīyah* (Arabian Gulf). The BGN-approved conventional name for that feature is 'Persian Gulf.'

5.3.2 Disputed Territories

Iran occupies two islands in the Persian Gulf that are claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and administers jointly with the UAE a third island in the Persian Gulf claimed by UAE. The three disputed islands are, using their Persian forms, Jazīreh-ye Abū Mūsá, Jazīreh-ye Tonb-e Bozorg, and Jazīreh-ye Tonb-e Kūchek. The BGN recognizes two approved names for each feature within these islands, one in the Persian language, determined by the Iranian names authority, and the other in the Arabic language, determined by the UAE names authority.

5.3.3 Demilitarized Zones

There are no demilitarized zones in Iran.

5.3.4 United Nations-Controlled Territories

There are no United Nations – controlled territories within Iran.

5.3.5 Non-defined Boundaries

The border between Iran and Turkmenistan has a section which is undefined, due to the construction of a new dam which submerged the border. However, no names policy issues have emerged as a result of the undefined border.

-APPROVED-**5.3.6 Riverine Boundaries**

Iran and Iraq dispute certain aspects of their riverine boundary along the Shatt al Arab, but no names policy issues arise as a result of this dispute.

5.3.7 Other Unusual Boundary Issues

For its maritime boundaries, Iran maintains an excessive straight baseline claim; the extension of the Shatt al Arab riverine boundary out to the territorial sea limit is undefined. As yet no names policy issues have arisen out of this situation.

Iran also disputes the extent of its territorial waters in the Caspian Sea with the four other littoral states. Again, no known names-related issues have arisen out of this dispute.

6. Source Material**6.1 Map Series containing Standardized Names****6.1.5 Iran National Geographic Organization, Various Map Series**

No specific statements of historic sources for names and imagery for these maps are given; thus, their reliability is open to question. Names are given in native script, with guidances for hypsographic, hydrographic and spot features are also given. Topographic relief is shown. The post-revolution maps yield some new names and features to be added to the GNDB. Some names changes of certain features are also suggested, pre-supposing approximate feature location congruence with the earlier maps.

6.1.6 Defense Mapping Agency 1:50,000 Series: K743, K753**6.1.7 Defense Mapping Agency, 1:100,000 Series: K653****6.1.8 Iran Joint Operations Graphics, 1:250,000 Scale****6.2 Map Series Containing Unofficial Names**

Working closely with the National Geographic Organization, three commercial firms function as quasi-official names authorities. These are: Gītā Shenāsī, Sāhāb, and Ershād. All three have such close associations with the NGO, that from an evidentiary standpoint, their products are treated as more authoritative than other Iranian commercial sources. However, in the event that a source published by one of these firms differs from an NGO source, the name from the commercial source is treated as a variant spelling. If a feature appears on a commercial source from one of these three firms, but on no NGO sources, it is treated as an unverified name.

6.2.1 1:300,000 and 1:600,000-scale province maps, Gītā Shenāsī, 1982-1995.
*(See note below 6.1.3)***6.2.2 1:1,000,000-scale province maps, Gītā Shenāsī, 1982-1985 (four sheets).**
*(See note below 6.1.3)***6.2.3 Road Atlas of Iran, 1:1,000,000, Gītā Shenāsī, 1990.**

There is no statement on the three source series from Gītā Shenāsī as to the provenance of either names or imagery. Thus, while the names on those sources are presumed to be an accurate reflection of NGO – ICSGN policies, their reliability is uncertain. The names on the maps are mostly for populated places, though a limited amount of information is also contained on them for hydrographic and hypsographic features. Limited spot-

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feature and elevation information is also given. These maps do not fully cover all names and features of comparable area found in the GNDB, and thus while these maps may be suitable for a civilian market, they are only of limited value for U.S. DoD purposes.

6.2.4 1:300,000 and 1:600,000-scale province maps, Şa ħāb, 1982-1995.

6.2.5 Soviet General Staff Map Series, 1:50,000 and 1:200,000 Scales

6.2.6 Turkmenistan Administrative Map (1995), 1:1.5 Million Scale

6.2.7 Survey of Pakistan 1,50,000 Series

6.2.8 Yeni Türk Atlası (New Turkish Atlas)

6.2.9 Iraq Survey Authority, 1:100,000 Series

6.2.10 Safavi, Major General Dr. Sayed Yahya (2001). *An Introduction to Military Geography of Iran*, Vols. 1-3. ISBN 964-6383-49-1.

6.3 Gazetteers Containing Standardized Names

6.3.1 [Iran] National Geographic Organization Geographic Dictionaries with accompanying 1:250,000-scale maps, 1975-1995 (136 volumes).

This series was mostly produced during the decade of the 1990s, based primarily on field surveys and census materials. The main entry names in the books are populated places, although other types of features may be coincidentally mentioned in the brief descriptions of their contextual geographic settings. There is generally a presumption of names density at the 1:50k scale, although there are names in the books not found on the accompanying maps, and vice versa. The maps are sanitized of all topographic relief information, and are sometimes lacking PPL symbols next to the names. In the books, BGN romanization of the names accompanies the Persian-script entries. Coordinates for PPL's are given only in degrees and minutes, not in seconds; thus, while these sources are excellent for names, their usefulness for coordinate information is mediocre.

6.3.2 [Iran] National Geographic Organization Geographic Dictionary of Mountain Names

6.3.3 A. Ja'farī (1997). *Rivers of Iran*. Tehran: Gītā Shenāsī.

A single-volume distillation of the four-volume NGO gazetteer of Iranian rivers, it uses the new NCC transliteration system, not the BGN/PCGN Persian transliteration system.

6.3.4 Iran National Geographic Organization (2002 - 4). *National Gazetteer of the I.R. of Iran*. Provinces Kerman and Yazd.

6.3.5 BGN Gazetteer of Iran, 2 volumes, 1984.

This publication is a handy reference for names only, albeit of limited value, given up-dating activities since the 1984 publication. Feature coordinates are given only in degrees and minutes, not in seconds. Names are in alphabetical order, and tagged with JOG-reference maps listings. Names are given both in BGN-approved official format and in alternate cross-referant variant forms. These variant forms offer a handy link from other unofficial maps to the correct BGN-approved name. The names are derived from various sources, such as JOG/NGO 1:250K-scale maps, Iran Statistical Center 1:200K maps, and various Iran geographic dictionaries. For names, the sources are excellent; but at this small scale, coordinate accuracy from the JOG/NGO maps is atrocious.

6.4 Gazetteers Containing Unofficial Names

6.4.1 Burke, Andrew, Elliott, Mark, & Kamin Mohammadi (2004). *Lonely Planet Iran*, 4th Edition.

7. Geographical Terms and Feature Designations

7.1 Glossary of Generic Terms, Adjectives, and Other Words Necessary for the Understanding of Maps

Alphabetized by Persian script

آ/ا

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
āb	آب	water; stream, well, spring
ābād or ābādī	آباد / آبادی	populated place; in compound word form, this is usually translated as "-city" or "-town"
āb anbār	آب انبار	cistern, underground storage tank
āb bargardān	آب برگردان	(temporary) earthen dam
āb band	آب بند	dam
āb band-e khākī	آب بند خاکی	earthen dam
ābkhawr	آبخور	irrigable area; trough, watering place, fountain head
ābrāheh	آبراهه	flood channel; canal
ābroft	آبرفت	alluvium, alluvial deposit
ābrow	آبرو	watercourse, aqueduct, water conduit
ābrīz	آبریز	catchment area; sewer, toilet, cesspool, drain, ditch

-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
ābrīzbasteh	آبریز بسته	interior drainage
āb-e sabok	آب سبک	soft water
ābshār	آبشار	waterfall
ābeshkhowr	آبشخور	watering place, fountain-head, cistern
āb-e shūr	آب شور	saltwater
ābshī	آبشی	sink, cesspool
āb feshān	آب فشان	geyser
ābgo zār	آبگذر	canal, water course, culvert, conduit
āb-e garm	آب گرم	hot spring
ābgīr	آبگیر	basin; pool
ābgīr-e rūdkhāneh	آبگیر رودخانه	river basin
ābgīreh	آبگیره	sluice, floodgate
āb-e morvārīd	آب مروارید	cataract
āb o havā (āb va havā) (fr P/A)	آب و هوا	climate, weather
Ābī	آبی	blue
ābhā-ye jārī (fr P/A)	آبهای جاری	running or flowing waters
āb-e harz	آب هرز	drainage
ātesh	آتش	fire
ātesh tāb	آتش تاب	furnace, stove
ātesh feshān	آتش فشان	volcano
ātesh neshānī	آتش نشانی	fire fighting
āsār (fr A)	آثار	traces, relics, monuments
āsār-e bāstānī (fr A/P)	آثار باستانی	ancient monuments or ruins (relics, etc.)
ājor	آجر	brick
ākhowr	آخور	stable, manger, stall
ārāmgāh	آرامگاه	tomb, mausoleum, grave, resting place
āzādrāh	آزادراه	highway; freeway
āzhāns-e havā'ī va mosāferatī (fr F/A)	آژانس هوایی و مسافرتی	travel agency (literally, flying and traveling agency)
āzhāns-e mosāferatī (fr F/A)	آژانس مسافرتی	travel agency
āsfālt (fr E)	آسفالت	asphalt
āsfāltī (fr E/P)	آسفالتی	paved
āsīāb	آسیاب	watermill

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
āsīāb-e mowtowrī (fr P/E)	آسیاب موتور	grain mill
āsīāh āb	آسیاه آب	watermill (less common spelling than (آسیاب))
āshīān-e ṭayyāreh (fr P/A)	آشیان طیاره	airplane hangar
āghol (or āghel)	آغل	sheepfold, pen
āmūzesh	آموزش	training; (act of) teaching or learning
āmūzeshgāh	آموزشگاه	school
āhak	آهک	lime
āhak-e āb nadīdeh	آهک آب ندیده	quicklime
āhak-e zنده	آهک زنده	quicklime
āyatollāh (fr A)	آیت الله	Ayatollah (title used in personal name)
Abū Bakr (fr A)	ابو بکر	(personal name)
aprā (fr Z & P)	اپرا	dust, earth, soil
atlāl (fr A & P)	اتلال	hills (pl. of تل) (see also, تلال)
otowbān (fr Ger)	اتوبان	autobahn; (super) highway
aḥjār (fr A)	احجار	stones, rocks (pl. of حجر) (see also, حجار)
aḥjār-e rosūbī (fr A)	احجار رسوبی	sedimentary rocks
Aḥmad (fr A)	احمد	(personal name)
edāreh (fr A)	اداره	an administration, a department, office
edāreh-ye ātेश neshānī (fr A/P)	اداره آتش نشانی	fire station
edāreh-ye banādar (fr A/P)	اداره بنادر	harbors administration
edāreh-ye dowlātī (fr A)	اداره دولتی	government center, government department
edāreh-ye rāh (fr A/P)	اداره راه	roads administration
edāreh-ye rāh āhan (fr A/P)	اداره راه آهن	railway administration
arrābeh rāh	ارابه راه	cart path; jeepable trail

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
arrābehrow	ارابه رو	cart path; jeepable trail (more commonly seen term than <i>ارابه راه</i>)
arāzī (fr A)	اراضی	lands, estates, territories
arāzī-ye bāyer (fr A/P)	اراضی بایر	unutilized or uncultivated lands
arāzī-ye bā'er (fr A/P)	اراضی بائر	unutilized or uncultivated lands
arāzī-ye kashāvarzī (fr A/P)	اراضی کشاورزی	cultivated lands
arāzī-ye mowred-e ṭoghyān (fr A)	اراضی مورد طغیان	floodplain
ertefā' (fr A)	ارتفاع	height, altitude, elevation
ertefā'āt (fr A)	ارتفاعات	heights, altitudes, elevations (pl. of <i>ارتفاع</i>)
ordū (fr T)	اردو	(military) camp
ordūgāh (fr T/P)	اردوگاه	(military) camp
arẓ (fr A)	ارض	the earth, ground; land, territory, country
arghā (or arghāb)	ارغا (ارغاب)	brook
arg (or ark)	ارگ (ارک)	small citadel
estādīūm (fr E)	استادیوم	stadium (new Persian word; contrast to <i>varzeshgāh</i>)
ostān	استان	province; 1st order administrative division
ostāndārī	استانداری	governorate
establ (fr E)	استبل	stable (new Persian word; contrast to <i>ṭavīleh</i>)
estakhr	استخر	pond, pool, lake
estakhr-e parvaresh-e māhī	استخر پرورش ماهی	fish hatchery
estefādeh (fr A)	استفاده	utilizing, taking advantage of
eskeleh (fr I)	اسکله	pier, quay, jetty, wharf
eslām (fr A)	اسلام	Islam

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<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
eslāmī (fr A)	اسلامی	Islamic
aṣlī (fr A/P)	اصلی	primary, principal, main, original, fundamental
eqteṣād (fr A)	اقتصاد	economy
amāken-e varzeshī (fr A/P)	اماکن ورزشی	sports places, sports fields (pl. of مکان ورزشی)
emāmzādeh (fr A/P)	امامزاده	(Islamic) shrine, tomb
emtedād-e taqrībī (fr A)	امتداد تقریبی	approximate borderline
Amīr (fr A)	امیر	(personal name or title used in personal name)
anār	انار	pomegranate
anbār	انبار	storage, warehouse, shed, magazine, depot, storage tank
anbār khāneh	انبار خانه	storehouse, magazine
anbār-e ghalleh (fr P/A)	انبار غله	granary
anbār-e gandom	انبار گندم	granary
entez,āmī (fr A)	انتظامی	disciplinary; refers to sheriff (rural police)
angūrestān	انگورستان	vineyard
anhār (fr A)	انهار	streams, rivers, canals (pl. of نهر)
īstgāh	ایستگاه	station
īstgāh-e ātash neshānī	ایستگاه آتش نشانی	fire station
īstgāh-e rāhāhan	ایستگاه راه آهن	railway station

ب

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
bāb (fr A)	باب	door, gate; pass
bātlāq (fr T)	باتلاق	swamp; marsh, bog (common misspelling in Persian)
bākhtar / bākhtarī	باختر / باختری	the west / western
bārandāz	بار انداز	landing place, wharf, dock, caravan-stop

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
bārgān	بارگان	ditch, puddle
bārū	بارو	rampart
bāzār	بازار	bazaar, market, market-place
bāzārcheh	بازارچه	(small) market
bāzdāshtgāh	بازداشتگاه	detention center
bāzrasī	بازرسی	inspection, survey
bāstānī	باستانی	ancient, traditional
bāshgāh-e varzeshī	باشگاه ورزشی	sports club
bāṭlāq (fr T)	باطلاق	swamp; marsh, bog
bāgh	باغ	garden; farm, orchard
bāgh-e angūr	باغ انگور	vineyard
bāgh-e mīveh	باغ میوه	orchard
bāgh-e vaḥsh (fr P/A)	باغ وحش	zoo
bālā	بالا	upper; above, up, upwards
bānd-e forūdghāh	باند فرودگاه	landing strip, runway
bānk (fr E & F)	بانک	bank
bāyer (or bā'er)	بایر / بائر	unutilized, uncultivated
beton (or betūn) (fr F)	بتن / بتون	concrete
baḥr (fr A)	بحر	sea, gulf, lake
baḥr-e khazar (fr A/T)	بحر خزر	Caspian Sea
baḥr-e 'ommān (fr A)	بحر عمان	Sea of Oman
bakhsh	بخش	township; county; 3rd order administrative division
borj (fr A)	برج	tower, turret; fort
barjestegī	برجستگی	(raised) relief, projection, notability (fig.)
barjestegī zīr-e āb	برجستگی زیر آب	underwater extension or projection
bar ḥasbeh (fr P/A)	بر حسب	according to, in accordance with
bard	برد	rock, stone
barq (fr A)	برق	lightning, electricity; flash; polish, luster
barreh	بره	lamb
bozorg	بزرگ	big, large
bozorgrāh	بزرگراه	highway

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
bostān	بستان	garden
bastar-e rūd(khāneh)	بستر رود(خانه)	river bed
besū-ye...	بسوی	to...; towards...; in the direction of...
beṭaraf-e... (fr A)	بطرف...	to...; towards...; in the direction of...
boghāz, bowghāz (fr T)	بغاز/بوغاز	strait
bolvār (fr F & E)	بلوار	boulevard
balūṭ	بلوط	oak
bolūk (fr T)	بلوک	district, civil parish
banāder (fr A of P word)	بنادر	ports, harbors (pl. of بندر)
bonbast	بن بست	blind, as an alley; cul-de-sac, dead-end
band	بند	dam, dike, causeway, levee
bandāb	بند آب	dam, dike
bandar	بندر	port, harbor, anchorage; commercial town
bandargāh	بندرگاه	port, harbor (= بندر)
benzīn (fr E or F)	بنزین	gasoline, benzene
bongāh (fr A)	بنگاه	an institution, dwelling-place
bonyād	بنیاد	foundation; basis
bonyān (fr A)	بنیان	structure, building; basis
būteh	بوته	shrub, bush
būtehzār	بوتهزار	shrubland, brushland
būlvār (fr F & E)	بولوار	boulevard (see بلوار, which is more common)
bīābān	بیابان	desert
be'r (fr A)	بئر	well, pit
bīsheh	بیشه	grove, thicket, forest
bīshīār	بیشتیار	uncultivated land
bīmārestān	بیمارستان	hospital

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<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
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<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
pārk (fr E or F)	پارک	park
pārk-e jangālī (fr F/P)	پارک جنگلی	forested park; wildlife park
pārkīng (fr E)	پارکینگ	parking (lot or garage)
pāsgāh	پاسگاه	station, police station; post of duty
pāsgāh-e entezāmī (fr P/A)	پاسگاه انتظامی	sheriff's office (police station in rural areas)
pāsgāh-e zhāndārmerī (fr P/F)	پاسگاه ژاندارمری	sheriff's office (police station in rural areas)
pāsgāh-e gomrok (fr P/T-I)	پاسگاه گمرک	customs post
pāsgāh-e marzī	پاسگاه مرزی	border post
pālāyeshgāh	پالایشگاه	refinery
pāyetakht	پایتخت	capital; metropolis
pāyegāh-e nezāmī (fr P/A)	پایگاه نظامی	military base
pā'in	پائین	lower; down; below (occasionally written پایین)
partgāh	پرتگاه	precipice, cliff, crag
partgāh-e sangar	پرتگاه سنگر	escarpment
parchīn	پرچین	fence; hedge, enclosure; shed
parvareshgāh	پرورشگاه	nursery, orphanage
postkhāneh (fr E & F/P)	پستخانه	post office
post-e feshār-e qavī (fr E or F/P/A)	پست فشار قوی	high voltage substation
poshteh	پشته	mound, eminence, embankment, buttress
pol	پل	bridge
pol-e pīādehrow	پل پیاده رو	foot bridge
polkhang	پلخنگ	aqueduct
pol-e 'āber-e pīādeh (fr P/A/P)	پل عابر پیاده	pedestrian bridge
pol-e motaḥarrek (fr P/A)	پل متحرک	drawbridge
pomp (fr E or F)	پمپ	pump
pomp-e benzīn (fr E or F)	پمپ بنزین	gas station

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<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
panāhgāh	پناه گاه	asylum, place of refuge, shelter, hiding place
pahnā	پهنا	area; width, breadth, extent, expanse
pīādehrow	پياده رو	sidewalk, foot path, pedestrian trail
peydā	پيدا	visible, apparent (e.g., partially submerged rock)

ن

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
ta'sīs (fr A)	تأسیس	establishment, foundation, institution, installation
ta'sīsāt (fr A)	تأسیسات	establishments, foundations, institutions, installations (pl. of تأسیس)
tākestān	تاکستان	vineyard
tālāb	تالاب	pond; pool; marsh
tālāb-e ṭabī'ī (fr P/A)	تالاب طبیعی	naturally-occurring pond
tappeh	تپه	hill, mound, mountain
tappeh-ye shenī	تپه شنی	sand dunes
takhtān	تختان	a terrace (geographic/geomorphologic term)
takhteh pol	تخته پل	pontoon bridge
takhteh sang	تخته سنگ	a slate, stone slab; a cliff
takhteh sang-e sāḥelī (fr P/A)	تخته سنگ ساحلی	reef
tor'eh (fr A)	ترعه	canal; channel; flood gate; strait
terīkū bāfī	تریکو بافی	textile mill
tašfīyeh khāneh (fr A/P)	تصفیه خانه	water filtration plant
ta'mīrgāh-e otowmobīl (fr A/E)	تعمیرگاه اتومبیل	auto repair shop
ta'mīrgāh-e keshtī (fr A/P)	تعمیرگاه کشتی	ship drydock

-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
tafrīḥ (fr A)	تفریح	recreation, amusement, fun, sport
taqrībī (fr A)	تقریبی	approximate
takyeḥ, takyehgāh (fr A)	تکیه / تکیه گاه	Islamic monastery
tall (fr A & P)	تل	hill
telāl (fr A & P)	تلال	hills (pl. of تل) (see also, اتلال)
telegrāf khāneh (fr E & F/P)	تلگراف خانه	telegraph office
tolombeh (fr P/T)	تلمبه	pump
televīzūn (fr E)	تلویزیون	television
taleh	تله	enclosure (figuratively); a trap or snare (literally)
tondeh	تنده	escarpment
tang	تنگ	narrow, tight, close; strait; mountain pass
tangnā (or tangnāy)	تنگنا / تنگنای	narrow place (strait, defile, pass, etc.)
tangeh	تنگه	strait; isthmus; gorge, defile, mountain pass
towpowgrāfi (fr E)	توپوگرافی	topography
tūdeh sang	توده سنگ	cairn, rock pile
tīātr (fr F)	تیاتر	theater
teātr (fr F)	تئاتر	theater

ث

(NA)

ج

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
jāddeh (fr A)	جاده	road, highway
jāddeh-ye rūgozār (fr A/P)	جاده رو گذر	overpass
jāddeh-ye zīrgozār (fr A/P)	جاده زیر گذر	underpass
jabākhāneh (fr T)	جباخانه	arsenal, armory
jebāl (fr A)	جبال	mountains (pl. of جبل)
jabkhāneh (fr T)	جبخانه	arsenal, armory
jabal (fr A)	جبل	mountain
jabekkhāneh (fr T)	جبه خانه	arsenal, armory (of similar words, this is most common)

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
jarīb (fr A)	جریب	Iranian "acre" (differing amount of land in different places)
jolkā	جلکا	plain (also see جلگه)
jolgeh	جلگه	plain (also see جلکا)
jolgeh-ye mortafe‘ (fr P/A)	جلگه مرتفع	plateau
jazīreh (fr A)	جزیره	island
jangal	جنگل	forest, woods, thicket
janūb / janūbī (fr A)	جنوب / جنوبی	south / southern
janūb-e sharq (fr A)	جنوب شرق	southeast
janūb-e gharb (fr A)	جنوب غرب	southwest
jū / jūy	جو / جوی	stream, brook
jūb	جوب	stream, ditch (slang)
jūybār	جوی بار	stream, brook, canal; place abounding with streams

چ

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
chāpārkhāneh (fr T/P)	چاپارخانه	post office
chāp khāneh	چاپ خانه	printing house, printing office
chādor	چادر	tent; veil worn by women
chādorneshīn	چادر نشین	nomad; tent dweller
chārrāh	چارراه	crossroads, intersection (can also be spelled چهار راه یا چهارراه)
chāk	چاک	cleft, fissure
chāl	چال	hollow, hole, pit
chāleh	چاله	pit, hollow; grain-storage pit, ditch
chāh	چاه	well; pit, hollow, cesspool
chāh-e āb	چاه آب	well
chāy (fr T?)	چای	river
chapar	چپر	wattle (especially of twigs); fence, enclosure
charā	چرا	pasture

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
cherāgh	چراغ	light, lamp
cherāgh-e daryā'ī	چراغ دریایی	navigation light, marine light
charāgāh	چراگاه	a pasture
cheshmeh	چشمه	spring; fountain
cheshmeh-ye āb-e garm	چشمه آب گرم	hot spring
chal	چل	dam, embankment
chaltūk	چلتوک	paddy, husked rice
chaman	چمن	meadow; prairie, lawn, turf, sod
chamanzār	چمن زار	meadow, lawn; pasture
chamanestān	چمنستان	meadow, lawn
chand zabānī	چند زبانی	multilingual
chūl (fr T)	چول	desert, wilderness
chahārāh	چهاراه	crossroads, intersection (can also be spelled چارراه or چهار راه)
chahārrāh	چهار راه	crossroads, intersection (most common spelling, but see also, چارراه or چهاراه)
chīneh	چینه	wall, fence

ح

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Ḥājjī (fr A/P)	حاجی	pilgrim; (title used in personal name)
ḥejār (fr A)	حجار	stones (pl. of حجر) (see also, احجار)
ḥajar (fr A)	حجر	stone
ḥadd (fr A)	حدّ	limit, boundary
ḥadd-e khaṭar (fr A)	حدّ خطر	danger zone, danger limit
ḥodūd (fr A)	حدود	boundaries, confines, frontiers, limits (pl. of حد)
ḥarārat (fr A)	حرارت	heat, temperature
Ḥasan (fr A)	حسن	(personal name)

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Ḥoseyn (fr A)	حسین	(personal name)
Ḥoseynīyeh (fr A)	حسینیہ	Shī'ī (Shi'a) Muslim shrine or holy place
ḥeṣār (fr A)	حصار	pen, corral; fence, enclosure, wall; castle; blockhouse
ḥofreh (fr A)	حفرہ	ditch, pit, cavity, hollow
ḥammām (fr A)	حمام	bathhouse, bath; Turkish bath
ḥowsh (fr A)	حوش	courtyard, enclosure
ḥowẓ (fr A)	حوض	water tank, pool, pond, basin, reservoir
ḥowẓchēh (fr A/P)	حوضچہ	little pool, small basin
ḥowẓeh (fr A/P)	حوضہ	river basin
ḥowẓeh-ye rūd(khāneh)	حوضۂ رود(خانہ)	river basin, watershed
ḥowmeh (fr A)	حومہ	suburbs, environs

خ

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
khārā	خارا	hard rock (especially granite, marble, or flint)
khāreh	خارہ	hard rock (especially granite, marble, or flint)
khāk	خاک	dust, soil, earth
khākbardārī	خاکبرداری	earth extraction or digging
khākrīz	خاکریز	embankment, levee, mound
khākrīz-e ma'āden (fr P/A)	خاکریز معادن	strip mine
khān (fr T & M)	خان	(personal name or title); chief;
khān	خان	caravanserai, inn
khāneqāh (fr Arabicized P word)	خانقاہ	Islamic monastery, convent, friary
khāneh	خانہ	house, residence
khāneh-ye behdāsh	خانۂ بهداشت	health clinic
khāneh-ye rūstā'ī	خانہ روستائی	village administrator's office
khāvar / khāvarī	خاور / خاوری	east / eastern
kharābeh (fr A/P)	خرابہ	ruin; abandoned place

-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
kharābehā (fr A/P)	خرابه ها	ruins (pl. of خرابه)
khōrūj (fr A)	خروج	exit
khoshk	خشک	dry, dried, withered, barren, severe
khoshkrūd	خشکرد	dried up river; dry valley
khaṭṭ (fr A)	خط	a line
khaṭṭ-e enteqāl-e nīrū (fr A/P)	خط انتقال نیرو	power transmission line
khaṭṭ-e telefon (fr A/E)	خط تلفن	telephone line
khaṭṭ-e nīrū (fr A/P)	خط نیرو	power line
khoṭūṭ-e ertebāṭī (fr A)	خطوط ارتباطی	telecommunications lines
khalīj (fr A)	خلیج	gulf, bay; strait, canal, river bank
khalīj-e fārs (fr A/P)	خلیج فارس	Persian Gulf
khomeynī	خمینی	(Khomeyni; personal name, sometimes written as Khomeini in non-BGN transliterations)
khandaq (fr Arabicized P word)	خندق	moat, trench, ditch
khōwr	خور	estuary, mouth, channel, small gulf
khōwrābeh	خورابه	canal or stream for irrigation
khīābān	خیابان	street, avenue
khīābān-e aṣlī (fr P/A/P)	خیابان اصلی	main street, avenue
khīābān-e far‘ī (fr P/A/P)	خیابان فرعی	secondary street
kheyl	خیل	clan

د

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
dādghāh	دادگاه	courthouse
dār (fr P or K or A)	دار	tree, wood, house
dārūkhāneh	داروخانه	pharmacy, drugstore

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
dāgh (fr P & T)	داغ	mountain
dāmdārī	دامداری	livestock farm; animal pens, corral
dāneshsarā	دانشسرا	teachers' college
dāneshkadeh	دانشکده	college, place of learning, faculty
dāneshgāh	دانشگاه	university
dā'emī (fr A)	دائمی	perpetual, permanent, constant (also written دایمی)
dabbāghkhāneh (fr A/P)	دباغ خانه	tannery
dabestān	دبستان	elementary school
dabīrestān	دبیرستان	high school; middle school
dakhmeh	دخمه	tower of silence, tomb, mausoleum (esp. of Zoroastrians), catacomb, burial cave
darband	در بند	narrow pass, defile, gorge, canyon
darajeh-ye 'arẓ (fr A)	درجه عرض	latitude (see more common عرض جغرافیایی)
darajeh-ye ẓūl (fr A)	درجه طول	longitude (see more common طول جغرافیایی)
derakht	درخت	tree
derakhtān	درختان	trees
derakhtān-e parākandeh	درختان پراکنده	scattered trees (in a landscape)
derakht-e khormā	درخت خرما	date palm
derakhtzār	درختزار	woods, forest
derakhtestān	درختستان	plantation, grove, arboretum, thicket
dord	درد	sediment
dardast-e eḥdās (fr A)	در دست احداث	under construction
dardast sākhtemān	در دست ساختمان	under construction
dargāh	درگاه	threshold, gate, door
dargeh	درگه	threshold, gate, door
darmāngāh	درمانگاه	clinic
darvāzeh	دروازه	gate; large gate (of an ancient city)

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
darreh	دره	valley
daryā	دریا	sea; marine
daryācheh	دریاچه	lake
daryācheh-e sadd (fr P/A)	دریاچه سد	reservoir
daryācheh-e faṣlī (fr P/A)	دریاچه فصلی	seasonal lake
daryācheh-e namak	دریاچه نمک	salt "lake"
daryākenār	دریاکنار	seashore, seacoast
darīcheh-ye ābgozār	دریچه آبگذر	canal lock
dezh	دژ	fortress, castle
dastgāh-e ābyārī	دستگاه آبیاری	irrigation system
dasteh-ye zhāndārmerī	دسته ژاندارمری	sheriff's office, police station
dasht	دشت	plain; desert; field
dagh	دغ	(rare spelling) playa; (see also دق)
daftar-e mokhāberāt (fr P/A)	دفتر مخابرات	communications office
daqq	دق	playa; salt flat, salt-depression (see also دغ)
dokkān (fr A)	دکان	shop
doktor (fr E)	دکتر	doctor (title in personal name)
deltā (fr E)	دلتا	delta
dam	دم	mouth, opening
damāgheh (fr P/A)	دماغه	cape, point, promontory
dowr (fr A)	دور	cycle, revolution, turn, period, time, perimeter
dūr	دور	far, remote; improbable, inconsistent
dowlat (fr A)	دولت	government, state
deh	ده	village
dahār	دهار	cave, cavern
dahāneh	دهانه	opening, mouth; used as stream-mouth, defile, water gap (also spelled دهنه)

-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
dahāneh-ye rūdkhāneh	دهانه رودخانه	mouth of a river, estuary
dehdārī	ده داری	village administration office
dehestān	دهستان	rural district; 4th order administrative division (one of two types)
dahaneh	دهنه	opening, mouth; used as stream-mouth, defile, water gap (also spelled دهانه)
dīg	دیگ	volcano crater, cauldron
dīvār	دیوار	wall

ر

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
rādīow (fr E)	رادیو	radio (also spelled رادیویی)
ra's (fr A)	رأس	head of ...; promontory, cape; summit, top of ...
rāgh	راغ	meadow; lower slope of a mountain
rāh	راه	road, way, path
rāh-e āsfālt (fr P/E)	راه آسفالت	paved road
rāh āhan	راه آهن	railroad, railway
rāhdārkhāneh	راهدارخانه	toll station, toll house
rāh-e khākī	راه خاکی	dirt road
rāhnamā	راهنما	legend (of a map); guide (sometimes also spelled راهنما)
rāheh	راهه	lane (of a street or highway); track (of a railroad); (e.g., 1 lane = یک راهه; 2 lanes = دو راهه)
robāt (fr A)	رباط	inn; station for horses; caravanserai
raz	رز	vineyard; vine; garden
restūrān (fr F)	رستوران	restaurant
reshteh	رشته	mountain range
reshteh-ye kūh	رشته کوه	mountain range
raṣadkhāneh (fr A/P)	رصدخانه	observatory

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
raṣadgāh (fr A/P)	رصدگاه	observatory
raml (fr A)	رمل	sand, gravel
rūd	رود	river, stream
rūdikhāneh	رودخانه	river
rūstā	روستا	village
rūstā'ī	روستایی	villager; peasant; rural, pastoral
rīz āb	ریز آب	sewage; stream
rīg	ریگ	sand, pebbles, gravel
rīg-e ravān	ریگ روان	quicksand
rīgzār	ریگزار	sandy region; sandy, pebbly
rīgestān	ریگستان	(area of) dunes; sandy region

ز

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
zādeh	زاده	progeny, son of
zāv	زاو	(rare) cleft, narrow mountain pass
zāyeshgāh	زایشگاه	maternity hospital
zerā'at (fr A)	زراعت	cultivation, tillage, farming, agriculture, husbandry
zard	زرد	yellow; pale orange
Zardī	زردی	yellow
zamīn-e shūreh	زمین شوره	salt marsh; (rare) salt pan; (see also شورہ زار)
zamīn-e zerā'atī (fr P/A)	زمین زراعتی	cultivated land
zamīnhā-ye varzeshī	زمین های ورزشی	sports grounds, sports fields
zendān	زندان	prison, jail
zehkesh	زهکش	drain, drainpipe; sewer
zehkeshī	زهکشی	drainage
zīārat (fr A)	زیارت	pilgrimage
zīāratgāh (fr A/P)	زیارتگاه	shrine, sanctuary; tomb; place of pilgrimage
zīr	زیر	below, bottom part, lower region

-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
zīr zamīn	زیر زمین	cellar; below ground, subterranean
zīrgozār	زیر گذر	underpass or overpass
zīst	زیست	subsistence, existence, life, livelihood
zīst shenāsī	زیست شناسی	biology

ژ

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
zhāndārmerī (fr F)	ژاندارمری	police headquarters; gendarmery
zhī	ژی	(rare) reservoir, cistern; channel, ditch

س

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
sāhel (fr A)	ساحل	shore, beach, coast, bank
sāhel-e daryā (fr A/P)	ساحل دریا	seashore
sāhel-e rūdkhāneh (fr A/P)	ساحل رودخانه	river bank
sāhelī (fr A)	ساحلی	coastal, riparian
sākhtemān	ساختمان	building, structure; construction
sākhtemān-e shahrdārī	ساختمان شهرداری	city hall
sākhtemān-e mohemm (fr P/A)	ساختمان مهم	important or main building
sākhtemānhā	ساختمانها	buildings
sākhteh nashodeh	ساخته نشده	not made (or built) yet
sārenj	سارنج	(rare) cistern, underground storage tank (see also آب انبار)
sāzemān	سازمان	organization, institution, structure
sāyebān	سایبان	shade shelter (see also سایه بان)
sāyehbān	سایه بان	shade shelter (see also سایبان)
Sabz	سبز	green
sadd (fr A)	سد	dam; dike

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
sadd-e darīcheh'ī (fr A/P)	سد دریچه ای	sluice; floodgate
sar	سر	peak, summit; cape; source
sarā	سرا	house; inn (see also سرای)
sarāy	سرای	house; inn (preferred spelling to sarā)
sarḥadd (fr P/A)	سرحد	frontier, boundary
sorkh	سُرخ	red
sardāb	سرداب	cellar; crypt, catacomb; grotto, cavern
sardsīr	سردسیر	(rare) summer quarters, summer camp
sar-e kūh	سر کوه	mountain peak or summit
saṭḥ (fr A)	سطح	surface; area; level; plane
saṭḥ-e daryā (fr A/P)	سطح دریا	sea level
Sa'īd (fr A)	سعید	(personal name)
sefāratkhāneh (fr A/P)	سفارتخانه	legation; diplomatic mission
soflā (fr A)	سفلی	lower; down, below
sefīd	سفید	white
sokūnat (fr A)	سکونت	residence, dwelling
sallākh khāneh (fr A/P)	سلاخ خانه	slaughterhouse, butcher
selseleh (fr A)	سلسله	mountain chain, mountain range
Soleymān (fr Heb or A)	سلیمان	(personal name)
sang	سنگ	stone; rock, boulder
sang-e āhak	سنگ آهک	limestone, dolomite
sangborī	سنگ بری	stonecutter (machine), stonecutting
sang-e bestar	سنگ بستر	bedrock
sangtarāsh	سنگتراش	stonecutter (person); sculptor

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
sangar	سنگر	blockhouse, entrenchment, stronghold, fortification
sanglākh (fr P/T)	سنگلاخ	stony place; rocky ground; craggy
sangī	سنگی	stony
sehrāh	سه راه	forked road, tee (3-way intersection)
sāh	سیاه	black
sāh āb	سیاه آب	bog, marsh, quagmire
Seyyed (fr A)	سید	(personal name); also, descendant of the Prophet; lord, master, chief
sīstem-e taṣvīr (fr F/A)	سیستم تصویر	map projection
seyl (fr A)	سیل	flood
seylāb (fr A/P)	سیلاب	flood, torrent
sīlow (fr E)	سیلو	silo
sīm	سیم	wire; silver
sīm-e khārdār	سیم خاردار	barbed wire
sīnemā (fr F & E)	سینما	cinema

ش

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
shāh	شاه	king
shabakeh (fr A)	شبكة	net or network, grid, lattice work
shebh-e jazīreh (fr A)	شبه جزیره	peninsula
shotor	شتر	camel
shotor galū	شتر گلو	siphon (or something that narrows things)
shotor mown	شتر مون	camel grazing lands
shorshorak	شرشرک	aqueduct
sharq / sharqī (fr A)	شرق / شرقی	east / eastern
sherkat (fr A)	شرکت	company
sherkat-e gāz (fr A/F)	شرکت گاز	gas company
sherkat-e naft (fr A/P)	شرکت نفت	oil company
shaṭṭ (fr A)	شط	a large river; (rare) bank of a river

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
shekāf	شکاف	fissure, split, crack, cleft, crevice, gap, rift (more commonly written than شکاف)
shegāf	شگاف	fissure, split, crack, cleft, crevice, gap, rift
shemāl / shemālī (fr A)	شمال / شمالی	north / northern
shemāl-e sharq (fr A)	شمال شرق	northeast
shemāl-e gharb (fr A)	شمال غرب	northwest
sham‘ak (fr A/P)	شمعک	buttress, shore, prop
shen	شن	sand, gravel
shenzār	شنزار	sandy region or place
shenī	شنی	sandy or gravelly
shūr	شور	salt; salty; saline, brackish
shūrāb / shūrābeh	شوراب / شورابه	saltwater, brackish water; brine
shūrehzār	شوره زار	salt marsh; (rare) salt pan; (see also زمین شوره)
shohadā (fr A)	شهیدا	martyrs (pl. of شهید) (often, title used in personal names)
shahr	شهر	city; town
shahrbānī	شهربانی	police headquarters
shahrdārī	شهرداری	city hall; municipal headquarters
shahrestān	شهرستان	county; 2nd order administrative division
shahrak	شهرک	town; suburb
shahrī	شهری	urban; municipal; townspeople, city dweller
shahīd (fr A)	شهید	martyr (often, title used in personal name)
shīār	شیار	a plowed field
shīb	شیب	gradient, slope
shīrak khāneh	شیرک خانه	tavern; inn
Shīa‘ (fr A)	شیع	Shi‘as (pl. of شیعه)
Shī‘ah (fr A)	شیعه	a Shi‘a (Shi‘ite)
Shī‘ī (fr A)	شیعی	Shi‘a (adjective)
shīl	شیل	fishery
shīlāt (fr P/A)	شیلات	fisheries

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Ṣaḥrā (fr A)	صحرا	desert; plain; field
Ṣaḥn (fr A)	صحن	courtyard; court; open space or area; square
Ṣakhreh (fr A)	صخره	rock; boulder; cliff
Ṣakhreh'ī (fr A/P)	صخره ای	rocky
Ṣakhrehdār (fr A/P)	صخره دار	rocky
Ṣakhreh sangī (fr A/P)	صخره سنگی	rocky
Ṣakhrehhā-ye movāzī (fr A/P/A)	صخره های موازی	translation = "parallel rocks" (sedimentary rock layers)
Ṣokhūr (fr A)	صخور	rocks (pl. of صخره)
Ṣad darajeh'ī (fr P/A)	صد درجه ای	Celsius, centigrade
Ṣadr od Dīn (fr A)	صدر الدین	(personal name)
Ṣan'atī (fr A/P)	صنعتی	industrial, manufacturing

ط

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
ṭāyefeh (fr A)	طایفه	tribe (family, clan, etc.)
ṭabaqāt (fr A)	طبقات	layers, strata, floors, stories (pl. of طبقه)
ṭabaqeh (fr A)	طبقه	layer, stratum, floor, story
ṭavāyef (fr A)	طوائف	tribes (families, clans, etc.) (pl. of طایفه)
ṭūl-e joḡhrāfīā'ī (fr A/G/P)	طول جغرافیایی	longitude (see also درجه طول)
ṭavīleh (fr A)	طوبله	stable
ṭavīlehdārī (fr A/P)	طوبله داری	livery

ع

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
'Abdollāh	عبدالله	(personal name)
'Arab (fr A)	عرب	(ethnicity or personal name)
'arẒ (fr A)	عرض	width; latitude
'arẒ-e joḡhrāfīā'ī (fr A/G/P)	عرض جغرافیایی	latitude (see also درجه عرض)
'Azīz (fr A)	عزیز	(personal name)
'ashāyer (fr A)	عشائر	tribes, families
'ashīreh (fr A)	عشیره	tribe, family
'alāmat (fr A)	علامت	marker, sign, signal, guidepost
'alāyem (fr A)	علائم	legend (of a map)
'Alī (fr A)	علی	(personal name)

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
‘olyā (fr A)	علیا	upper; high; great
‘emārat (fr A)	عمارت	building (usu.); edifice, residence, mansion, palace
‘omq	عمق	depth
‘omq-e āb	عمق آب	soundings
‘amūd (fr A)	عمود	column, pillar, buttress
‘omūmī (fr A)	عمومی	public (adj.)

غ

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
ghār (fr A)	غار	cave, cavern, grotto
gharb / gharbī (fr A)	غرب / غربی	west / western
ghassālkhāneh (fr A/P)	غسالخانه	mortuary
ghalleh (fr A)	غله	grain
ghallehdān (fr A/P)	غله دان	granary

ف

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
fātūm (fr E)	فاتوم	fathom
fāṣeleh (fr A)	فاصله	distance, space
fāẓel (fr A)	فاضل	learned, erudite, scholarly
fāẓelāb (fr A/P)	فاضل آب	sewage, waste water
far‘ī (fr A/P)	فرعی	secondary
farmāndārī	فرمانداری	governorate; governor’s office or residence
forūdghāh	فرودگاه	airport
farhang	فرهنگ	learning, knowledge; good breeding, civility
feshār-e qavī (fr P/A)	فشار قوی	high tension (lit. "strong pressure")
faṣl (fr A)	فصل	season, time; section, chapter
faṣlī (fr A/P)	فصلی	seasonal, intermittent
faẓā’-ye sabz (fr A/P)	فضای سبز	green space
falāt (fr A)	فلات	extensive desert or plain; plateau
falāḥat (fr A)	فلاحت	agriculture, husbandry, farming
falakeh	فلکه	traffic circle, square
favāṣel (fr A)	فواصل	distances, spaces (pl. of فاصله)

ق

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
qabāyel (fr A)	قبایل / قبائل	tribes, families, clans (pl. of قبيله)
qabāyel-e chādor neshīn (fr A/P)	قبایل چادر نشین	nomadic tribes, nomads
qabr (fr A)	قبر	tomb, grave
qabrestān (fr A/P)	قبرستان	cemetery, graveyard
qobbeh (fr A)	قبه	cupola, dome, turret; vault
qabīleh (fr A)	قبيله	tribe, family, clan
qorā' (fr A)	قراء	villages (pl. of قريه)
qarāvol (fr T)	قراول	guard, sentry, sentinel, watchman, patrol
qarāvolkhāneh (fr T/P)	قراول خانه	guard house, sentry box, barrack
qaryeh (fr A)	قریه	village
qermez	قرمز	red
qeshlāq (fr T)	قشلاق	winter quarters, winter encampment
qaṣṣāb (fr A)	قصاب	butcher, meat market
qaṣṣābkhāneh (fr A)	قصاب خانه	butcher's shop
qaṣābeh (fr A)	قصبه	town, borough
qaṣr	قصر	palace
qaṭrān	قطران	tar, pitch
qollāt (fr A)	قلات	(rare) summits, hilltops, peaks (pl. of قله)
qelāl (fr A)	قلال	(very rare) summits, hilltops, peaks (pl. of قله)
qal'eh (fr A)	قلعه	castle, fort, bastion, stronghold
qolal (fr A)	قلل	summits, hilltops, peaks (pl. of قله)
qolleh (fr A)	قله	summit, hilltop, mountain peak, crest
qolleh-ye tīz (fr A/P)	قله تیز	(pointed) mountain peak
qolleh-ye makhrūṭī (fr A)	قله مخروطی	(conical) mountain peak
qanāt (fr A)	قنات	underground aqueduct or canal
qanavāt (fr A)	قنوات	underground aqueducts or canals (pl. of قنات)
qūrkhāneh (fr T/P)	قورخانه	arsenal, armory

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
qūz	قوز	a hump; humpbacked; fold (geologic?)
qowsh (fr T)	قوش	falcon, hawk (sometimes pronounced qūsh)
qownsūl (fr F)	قونسول	consul (also spelled / کنسول / قنصل / قنسل / قنصول; قنصل is most common)
qownsūlkhāneh (fr F/P)	قونسولخانه	consulate
qownsūlgarī (fr F/P)	قونسولگری	consulate
qahvehkhāneh (fr A/P)	قهوه خانه	coffee house, coffee shop; teahouse, inn (occasionally spelled قحوه خانه)
qīr	قیر	tar, pitch
qīr-e khīābān	قیر خیابان	asphalt

ک

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
kākh	کاخ	palace, mansion, villa
kārkhāneh	کارخانه	factory, mill; workshop, worksite
kārkhāneh-ye ārd	کارخانه آرد	flour mill
kārkhāneh-ye āsfālt (fr P/E)	کارخانه آسفالت	asphalt factory
kārkhāneh-ye barq (fr P/A)	کارخانه برق	power station; electric plant
kārkhāneh-ye zōwb-e āhan (fr P/A/P)	کارخانه ذوب آهن	steel mill
kārkhāneh-ye zōwb-e felezzāt (fr P/A)	کارخانه ذوب فلزات	foundry
kārkhāneh-ye rīsandegī va bāfandegī	کارخانه ریسندگی و بافندگی	spinning and weaving factory; textile mill
kārkhāneh-ye shen va māseh	کارخانه شن و ماسه	sand and gravel mill
kārkhāneh-ye kafsh sāzī	کارخانه کفش سازی	shoe factory
kārkhāneh-ye gach	کارخانه گچ	plaster mill
kārkhāneh-ye nabarcheh-ye blowk (fr P & ?)	کارخانه نبرچه بلوک	cement block factory
kārgāh	کارگاه	factory; workshop

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
kārgāh-e blowk zanī (fr P & ?)	کارگاه بلوک زنی	concrete block factory (manufacturing)
kārgāh-e maḥdūdeh (fr P/A)	کارگاه محدوده	restricted factory
kārgāh-e mūzā'iksāzī va blowk zanī (fr P & ?)	کارگاه موزائیک سازی و بلوک زنی	paver and concrete block factory (manufacturing)
kārvānsarā / kārvānsarāy	کاروانسرا (ی)	caravanserai, inn
kārīz	کاریز	underground aqueduct
kāshī	کاشی	ceramic (glazed) tile
kāl	کال	(rarely used) gully, ditch, cracked ground
kāmel (fr A)	کامل	perfect, complete, entire, thorough, full, whole
kān	کان	mine, quarry
kānāl-e āb (fr E or F/P)	کانال آب	canal
kānāl-e betonī-ye āb (fr F/P)	کانال بتنی آب	concrete water canal
kānālhā-ye ābyārī (fr F/E & P)	کانالهای آبیاری	irrigation canals
ketābkhāneh (fr A/P)	کتاب خانه	library
ketābforūshī (fr A/P)	کتاب فروشی	book shop, bookstore
kotal	کتل	high hill, steep hill; mountain pass
koshtārgāh	کشتارگاه	slaughterhouse
kashtī-ye moghrūq (fr P/A)	کشتی مغروق	sunken or submerged ship
kaffeh (fr A)	کفه	salt pan
kalāt	کلات	fortress on top of a mountain
kalāteh	کلاته	farm, small sown field; small village, hamlet
kalāntarī	کلانتری	police station (urban areas)
kolbeh	کلبه	cottage, hut, hovel
kalleh	کله	peak
kelīsā / kelīsā (fr G)	کلیسا / کلیسیا	church

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
kenār	کنار	side, edge, shore, coast
kenār-e daryā	کنار دریا	seashore, coast
kand (fr T)	کند	(rarely used Turkish suffix) village; fort or citadel
konsül (fr F)	کنسول	consul (also spelled قنصل / قونسول / قنصول / قنسل is most common)
konsülkhāneh (fr F/P)	کنسولخانه	consulate
konsülgarī (fr F/P)	کنسولگری	consulate
kūt (fr H)	کوت	fort; town
Kūchek	کوچک	small, little
kūcheh	کوچه	alley, street, lane (diminutive of kūy/کوی)
kūchehband	کوچه بند	street barricade
kūreh	کوره	furnace, forge, kiln
kūreh-ye ājor pazī	کوره آجر پزی	brick kiln
kūreh-ye āhak pazī	کوره آهک پزی	lime kiln
kūrehdeh	کوره ده	small village, hamlet
kūrehrah	کوره راه	path, trail, indeterminate "road"; winding road
kūreh-ye gach pazī	کوره گچ پزی	plaster kiln
kūshk	کوشک	summer house or villa; palace, mansion
kūh	کوه	mountain
kūh-e āteshfeshān	کوه آتشفشان	volcano
kūhhā	کوه ها	mountains (pl. of کوه)
kūy	کوی	quarter (of a town); small street, alley, lane
kavīr	کویر	salt desert; brackish; desert
kahrīz	کهزیز	underground aqueduct (see کاری)

ک

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
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-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
gāv	گاو	cow; ox
gāvdārī	گاوداری	cattle farm, stockyard, corral
Gāh	گاه	place
gabrestān	گبرستان	fire-worshiper (Zoroastrian) site
gach	گچ	plaster, stucco
gachpazkhāneh	گچپزخانه	plaster kiln (sometimes, گچخانه)
godār	گدار	ford; pass
gadūk	گدوک	mountain pass; mountain summit
gozār	گذر	a passage; a quarter, or section, of a street
gozārāb	گذرآب	a water course
gozārgāh	گذرگاه	passage, fording place, thoroughfare
gardaneh	گردنه	pass, defile; neck of land
garmsīr	گرمسیر	tropical; winter quarters, winter camp
gosasteh	گسسته	broken, torn, ruptured (as with difficult terrain)
gel	گل	mud, clay, slime
gol	گل	flower; rose
golkhāneh	گلخانه	greenhouse
golestān	گلستان	flower garden; rose garden
galleh or galeh	گله	herd, flock (also, گل)
gomrok (fr T-I)	گمرک	customs (at the international border)
gonbad, gonbaz̄	گنبد / گنبد	dome, cupola, vault, arch
gonj	گنج	volume, capacity, mass, bulk, size, quantity
gandābrow	گندابرو	a sewer
gandom	گندم	wheat
gowd	گود	deep, low; pit, chasm, depression

-APPROVED-

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
gowdāl	گودال	pit, hole, trench; low ground
gowdāl-e āb	گودال آب	water hole; puddle
gūr	گور	grave, tomb
gūrestān	گورستان	cemetery, graveyard
gūsband	گوسفند	a sheep (esp. a fat-tailed sheep)
gūgerd	گوگرد	sulfur
gīā / gīāh	گیا / گیاه	plant, vegetable; herb; grass, pasture
gīāhdār	گیاهدار	grassy, herbiferous

ج

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
lab-e daryā	لب دریا	seashore, sea coast; beach
lab-e rūdkhāneh	لب رودخانه	river bank
lajan	لجن	ooze, slime (e.g., at bottom of pond); silt, quagmire
lajanzār	لجنزار	marsh; oozy, slimy ground
langargāh	لنگرگاه	anchorage, harbor
lūt	لوت	desert
lūleh-ye āb	لوله آب	aqueduct, water pipe
lūleh sāzī	لوله سازی	pipe or tube factory

م

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
mār	مار	snake, serpent
māseh	ماسه	fine sand
māndāb	مانداب	marsh
māhūr	ماه‌ور	hill; rising ground
māhī	ماهی	fish
mabnā-ye mosatṭahāt (fr A)	مبنای مسطحات	datum (of a map)
motaḥharrek (fr A)	متحرک	movable, moving, mobile
metr (fr F)	متر	meter
metrū (fr E/F)	مترو	subway; metro; underground railroad

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
matrūk (fr A)	متروک	abandoned, deserted, obsolete
mottaṣel (fr A)	متصل	connected, adjoining, linked
motanāveb (fr A)	متناوب	alternate, intermittent, periodical
motavasseṭ (fr A)	متوسط	mean, middle, average
mojtame‘	مجمع	gathered together, convened, assembled; a complex
mojtame‘-e maskūnī (fr A)	مجمع مسکونی	apartment complex; subdivision
mojtame‘-e varzeshī (fr A/P)	مجمع ورزشی	sports complex
majrā (fr A)	مجرأ	channel, canal, water course, aqueduct
majrā-ye āb (fr A/P)	مجرأی آب	channel, canal, water course, aqueduct
mojassameh (fr A)	مجسمه	statue
majmū‘eh-ye varzeshī (fr A/P)	مجموعه ورزشی	athletic facilities
maḥdūdeh (fr A)	محدوده	confined, restricted area, within the boundary of
maḥal (fr A)	محل	place, station, location; dwelling (usually used as "place of ..." or "place where ...")
maḥalleh (fr A)	محله	quarter (of town), district
Moḥammad (fr A)	محمد	(personal name)
moḥavvaṭeh (fr A)	محوطه	enclosure, fence; yard
moḥīṭ (fr A)	محیط	circumference, perimeter, contour, surrounding, enviromental milieu, atmosphere
mokhāberāt (fr A)	مخابرات	telephone-calling or telegraph-dispatching office (literally, "dispatches")

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
makhzan (fr A)	مخزن	storage, storehouse, warehouse, magazine
makhzan-e āb (fr A/P)	مخزن آب	water tank
makhzan-e naft (fr A/P)	مخزن نفت	oil storage
madrseh (fr A)	مدرسه	(religious) school; college, university
marāte‘ (fr A)	مراتع	pastures (pl. of مرتع)
marākez (fr A)	مراکز	centers, headquarters (pl. of مرکز)
marākez-e āmūzesh-e ‘ālī (fr A/P/A)	مراکز آموزش عالی	higher education centers
markaz-e āmūzeshī va farhangī (fr A/P)	مرکز آموزشی و فرهنگی	education and cultural center
morabba‘ (fr A)	مربع	square
marta‘ (fr A)	مرتع	pasture
mortafe‘ (fr A)	مرتفع	high, lofty, elevated
mordāb	مرداب	lagoon; marsh; creek
marz	مرز	border, boundary, frontier
marzbānī	مرزبانۍ	border post
marz-e beyn ol melalī (fr P/A)	مرز بین المللی	international border
marz-e velāyat (fr P/A)	مرز ولایت	provincial border
morgh	مرغ	chicken, hen, fowl, bird
morghdārī	مرغداری	poultry farm
markaz (fr A)	مرکز	a center; central; principal
markaz-e ātash neshānī (fr A/P)	مرکز آتش نشانی	fire station
markaz-e āmūzeshī va farhangī (fr A/P)	مرکز آموزشی و فرهنگی	education and cultural center
markaz-e bārgīrī (fr A/P)	مرکز بارگیری	oil pipeline terminus (oil is loaded on to ships)
markaz-e behdāsht (fr A/P)	مرکز بهداشت	clinic, public health center
markaz-e postī (fr A/F)	مرکز پستی	post (or postal) office

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
markazī (fr A/P)	مرکزی	central
marīẓkhāneh (fr A/P)	مریض خانه	hospital
mazār (fr A)	مزار	tomb; grave
mazārestān (fr A/P)	مزارستان	cemetery
mazāre‘ (fr A)	مزارع	farms; fields (pl. of مزرعه)
mazra‘eh (fr A)	مزرعه	farm; field
masāḥat (fr A)	مساحت	land measurement; area; zone, region
mosāferkhāneh (fr A/P)	مسافر خانه	hotel, inn
masjed (fr A)	مسجد	mosque
mosaṭṭaḥ (fr A)	مسطح	flat, level, even; plane
mosaṭṭaḥāt (fr A)	مسطحات	plane surfaces
maskūn (fr A)	مسکون	inhabited
moslem (fr A)	مسلم	a Muslim
mosalmān (fr A)	مسلمان	Muslim
masīḥī (fr A)	مسیحی	Christian
masīr (fr A)	مسیر	course, route; line, direction (of a railroad, etc.); road, path
masīr-e ṭoghyān (fr A)	مسیر طغیان	flood channel
masīl (fr A)	مسیل	dry river; ravine, channel, water course
masīl-e dā‘emī (fr A/P)	مسیل دائمی	perennial stream
masīleh	مسيله	playa
moshref (fr A)	مشرف	overlooking, overhanging, imminent
mashreq / mashreqī (fr A)	مشرق / مشرقی	east / eastern
Moṣṭafá (fr A)	مصطفی	(personal name)
maṣnū‘ī (fr A/P)	مصنوعی	artificial; man-made
ma‘bad (fr A)	معبد	(generic) place of worship
ma‘dan (fr A)	معدن	mine, quarry, pit
ma‘dan-e āhak (fr A/P)	معدن آهک	lime quarry

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
ma'dan-e sang (fr A/P)	معدن سنگ	sand mine (usually); stone quarry
ma'dan-e ṭalā (fr A/P)	معدن طلا	gold mine
ma'dan-e namak (fr A/P)	معدن نمک	salt mine
maghreb / maghrebī (fr A)	مغرب / مغربی	west / western
maqbareh (fr A)	مقبره	cemetery, graveyard; tomb
maqsem (fr A)	مقسم	(rare) watershed
maqsem ol mīāh (fr A)	مقسم المیاء	watershed
meqyās (fr A)	مقیاس	scale (of a map)
makān-e tārikhī (fr A)	مکان تاریخی	historic site
manār / manāreh (fr A)	منار / مناره	minaret; lighthouse; possibly, a water tower
manāṭeq (fr A)	مناطق	areas, localities, zones, spheres (pl. of منطقه)
manāṭeq-e maskūnī (fr A)	مناطق مسکونی	built-up residential areas
manba' (fr A)	منبع	water tank or water tower; originally, word used as spring, source; fountain
manba'-e āb (fr A/P)	منبع آب	water tank or water tower; originally, spring
monḥanī (fr A)	منحنی	contour line; curved line
monḥanīyāt (fr A)	منحنیات	contour lines; curved lines (pl. of منحنی)
maṇṭaqeh (fr A)	منطقه	area, locality, zone, sphere
maṇṭaqeh-ye Ṣan'atī (fr A)	منطقه صنعتی	industrial area; manufacturing area
maṇṭaqeh-ye mähīgīrī (fr A/P)	منطقه ماهیگیری	fishing area
maṇṭaqeh-ye maskūnī (fr A)	منطقه مسکونی	built-up residential area; inhabited area

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
manṭaqeh-ye nezāmi (fr A)	منطقه نظامی	military area
movāzī (fr A)	موازی	parallel
movāzī-ye jāddeh (fr A)	موازی جاده	parallel to road
mowtowr-e āb (fr E/P)	موتور آب	translation = "well (with pump)"; if this term is used with any personal name, then its translation is "farm" or, that is, "Name's farm"
mowtowrkhāneh (fr E/P)	موتورخانه	engine room, engine house
mowj shekan (fr A/P)	موج شکن	breakwater
mūzā'īksāzī	موزائیک سازی	paver maker
mūzeh (fr F)	موزه	museum
mo'assaseh (fr A)	مؤسسه	establishment, institution; institute
Mūsá (fr A)	موسی	(personal name); = Moses
mohemm (fr A)	مهم	important
mehmānkhāneh	مهمان خانه	hotel, inn
mehmānsarā	مهمانسرا	tourist hotel, inn
mīān	میان	middle, center, interior
meydān	میدان	a square, field, circle, arena
mīzān (fr A)	میزان	measure; amount; standard
mīzān-e monḥanī (fr A)	میزان منحنی	contour (line) height or measurement
mīleh (fr A/P)	میله	rod, shaft, marker, bar, axle
mīveh	میوه	fruit

ن

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
nāpeydā	ناپیدا	invisible, disappeared (e.g., non-visible sunken ship)

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
nāhīyeh (fr A)	ناحیه	district, area, region
nāzā, nāzād	نازا / نازاد	barren
nām-e maḥal (fr P/A)	نام محل	placename; region or area name
nāvdān	ناودان	gutter, spout; aqueduct
nakhl (fr A)	نخل	palm; can be a date palm
nakhl-e khormā (fr A/P)	نخل خرما	date palm
nakhlestān (fr A/P)	نخلستان	date palm plantation; palm grove
nakhleh (fr A/P)	نخله	a single palm
nadāmatgāh (fr A/P)	ندامت گاه	penitentiary
nardeh	نرده	handrail; fence, barrier, barricade, wall
nezāmī (fr A)	نظامی	military
nazar (fr A)	نظر	view, aspect, sight
naft	نفت	oil, petroleum, kerosene (can also be نفت)
naqb (fr A)	نقب	tunnel, mine (underground), underground passage
naqsheh (fr A)	نقشه	map
noqṭah-e ertefā‘ī (fr A)	نقطه ارتفاعی	spot height (of a hill, peak, etc.)
namāyesh	نمایش	representation, demonstration, form, appearance
namak	نمک	salt
namakzār	نمک زار	salt marsh, salt pan, salt waste
now	نو	new
nahr (fr A)	نهر	stream, river, canal; docking basin
nīrū-ye entezāmī (fr P/A/P)	نیروی انتظامی	police station
neyzār	نیزار	marsh; reed bed; cane plantation
nīm īstgāh	نیم ایستگاه	mid-way station
nīmeḥ īstgāh	نیمه ایستگاه	mid-way station

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<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
ney-ye hendī	نی هندی	bamboo

9

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
varzeshkhāneh	ورزشخانه	gymnasium
varzeshgāh	ورزشگاه	gymnasium; sports stadium
vezārat (fr A)	وزارت	ministry
vezāratkhāneh (fr A/P)	وزارتخانه	ministry (building), department
vasaṭ / voṣṭā (fr A)	وسط / وسطی	middle; center / middle; central
velāyat (fr A)	ولایت	province
vīrān (or veyrān)	ویران	ruined, abandoned

o

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
hāmūn	هامون	plain, desert; salt waste
hāvīyah (fr A)	هاویه	abyss, gulf
hotel (fr E)	هتل	hotel
hezārdarreh	هزاردره	badlands
havā (fr A)	هوا	air, atmosphere; weather
hīzom	هیزم	wood, firewood

س

<i>Romanized Form</i>	<i>Persian Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
yābān	یابان	desert; (means "wilderness or uncultivated area" in Kurdish areas)
yaīmikhāneh (fr A/P)	یتیمخانه	orphanage
yūrt (fr T)	یورت	a room; an abode; often, a nomadic encampment
yeylāq (fr T)	بیلاق	summer quarters, summer encampment

7.2 Feature Designations

For a list of feature designations, please refer to the Geonet Names Server,
http://gnswww.nga.mil/geonames/Desig_Code/Desig_Code_Search.jsp.

8. Abbreviations Used on Official Maps

No abbreviations are known to be used on official maps.

9. Methods of Differentiating Toponyms from other Text on National Maps

On NGO maps at the 1:250,000 and 1:50,000 scales, a lighter and smaller font family is used to differentiate map information from true toponyms, as shown in the sample below.



10. Non-Map Sources Consulted

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Appendix A. Languages of Iran Spoken by 10,000 or More Persons

<i>Language</i>	<i>GNDB – ISO Dialect Code</i>	<i>Number Speakers, Location</i>	<i>Genetic Affiliation</i>
AIMAQ <i>Dialects:</i> TEIMURI (TEIMURTASH).	[AIQ]	170,000 (1993 Johnstone). Mazanderan Province.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian.
ARABIC, GULF SPOKEN <i>Alternate names:</i> KHALIJI, GULF ARABIC. <i>Dialects:</i> AL-HASAA.	[AFB]	200,000 in Iran (1993). Southern coast.	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic.
ARABIC, MESOPOTAMIAN SPOKEN <i>Alternate names:</i> MESOPOTAMIAN GELET ARABIC.	[ACM]	1,200,000 in Iran. Khuzestan Province, southwest side of Zagros Mts., along the bank of the Shatt al Arab and the Tigris.	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic.
ARMENIAN <i>Alternate names:</i> HAIEREN, SOMEKHURI, ERMENICE, ARMJANSKI.	[ARM]	170,800 in Iran (1993). Northern Iran, Azerbaijan around Khoi, Shahpur, Ahar, Tabriz, Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz.	Indo-European, Armenian.
ASSYRIAN NEO- ARAMAIC	[AII]	10,000 to 20,000 in Iran (1994) out of a reported population of 80,000. Reza'iyeh (Rizaiye, Urmia, Urm). Most in Tehran.	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern.
AZERBAIJANI, SOUTH <i>Alternate names:</i> AZERBAIJANI.	[AZB]	23,500,000 in Iran (1997), or 37.3% of the population (1997), including 290,000 Afshar, 5,000 Aynallu, 7,500 Baharlu, 1,000 Moqaddam, 3,500 Nafar 1,000 Pishagchi, 3,000 Qajar, 2,000 Qaragozlu, 130,000 Shahsavani (1993).	Altaic, Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani.
BALUCHI, SOUTHERN <i>Alternate names:</i> BALUCHI, BALUCI, BALOCI.	[BCC]	405,000 in Iran. Southern Baluchistan Province.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi.

<i>Language</i>	<i>GNDB – ISO Dialect Code</i>	<i>Number Speakers, Location</i>	<i>Genetic Affiliation</i>
BALOCHI, WESTERN <i>Alternate names:</i> BALUCHI, BALUCI, BALOCI.	[BGN]	451,000 in Iran, 1% of the population (1986). Northern Baluchistan Province. Half are settled in cities and villages, half are nomadic.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi.
BRAHUI <i>Alternate names:</i> BRAHUDI, BIRAHUI, KUR GALLI.	[BRH]	10,000 in Iran (1983).	Dravidian, Northern.
DARI <i>Alternate names:</i> 'GABRI', 'GABAR'.	[GBZ]	8,000 to 15,000 (1999). Yezd and Kerman areas.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran.
DOMARI <i>Alternate names:</i> MIDDLE EASTERN ROMANI, TSIGENE, GYPSY.	[RMT]	80,000 in Iran (1929)	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo- Aryan, Central zone, Dom.
FARSI, WESTERN <i>Alternate names:</i> PERSIAN, PARSI.	[PES]	22,000,000 in Iran, or 35.92% of the population (1997), including 800,000 Dari in Khorasan, Gilan, Tat, Bakhtiyari, Lor.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian.
GILAKI <i>Alternate names:</i> GELAKI, GILANI, GUILAKI, GUILANI.	[GLK]	3,265,000 (1993), including 2,000 Galeshi (1991 WA). Gilan region, coastal plain, south of Talish. Galeshi is a mountain dialect.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Caspian.
HAZARAGI <i>Alternate names:</i> HAZARA, HEZAREH, HEZARE'I.	[HAZ]	283,000 in Iran (1993).	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian.
KHALAJ	[KLJ]	17,000 and decreasing (1968). Northeast of Arak in Central Province.	Altaic, Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani.
KHORASANI TURKISH <i>Alternate names:</i> QUCHAN.	[KMZ]	400,000 possibly (1977 Doerfer). Northeast Iran, in the northern part of Khorasan Province, especially northwest of Mashhad. West dialect in Bojnurd region; north dialect in Quchan region (probably the largest), south dialect around Soltanabad near Sabzevar.	Altaic, Turkic, Southern, Turkish.

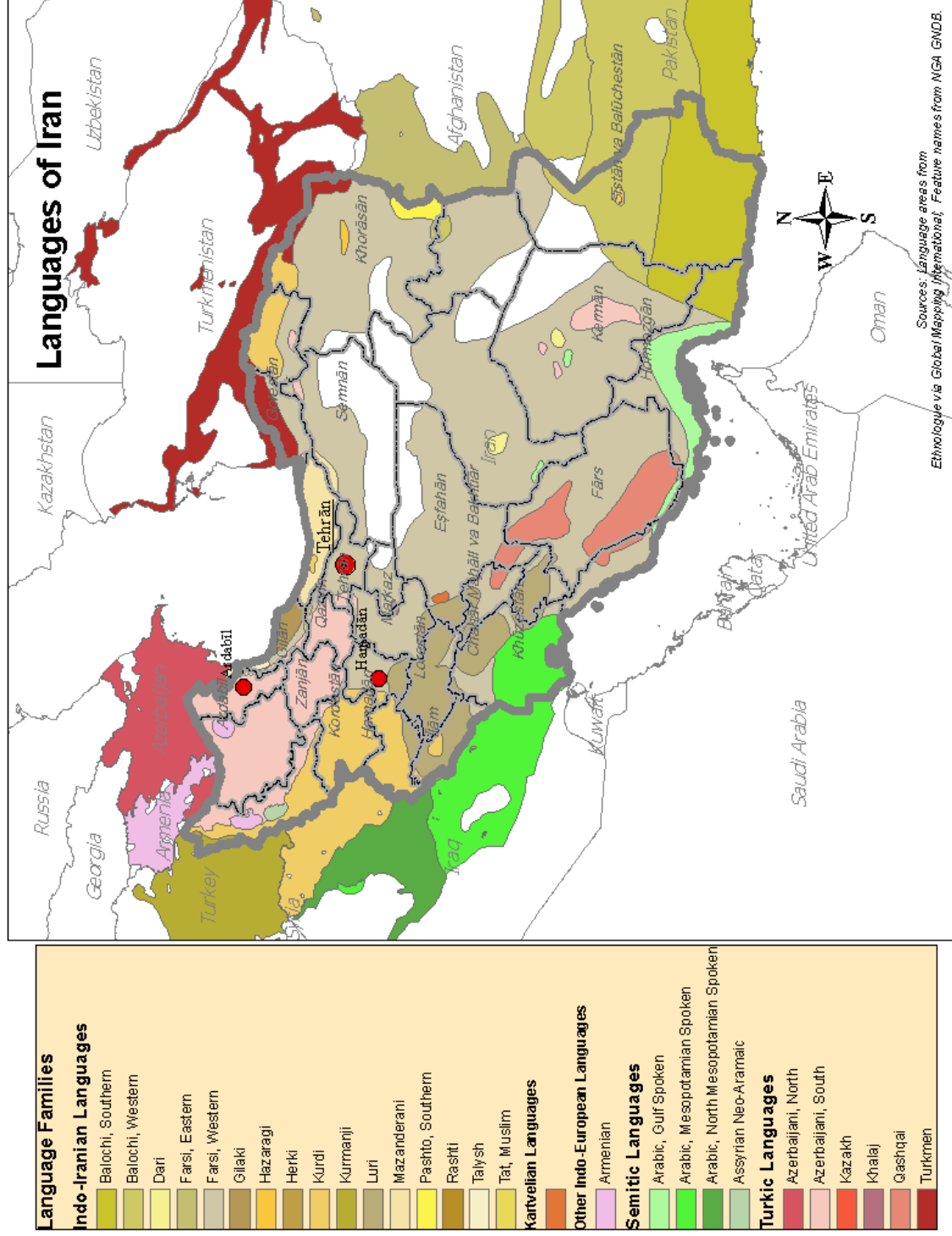
<i>Language</i>	<i>GNDB – ISO Dialect Code</i>	<i>Number Speakers, Location</i>	<i>Genetic Affiliation</i>
KURDI <i>Alternate names:</i> KURDY, SOUTHERN KURDISH, SORANI, KORKORA, WÂWÂ.	[CKB]	3,250,000 in Iran. Northwest Iran, primarily Kordestan, Kermanshahan, West Azerbaijan provinces; also a large number in northeast Iran, in the very north of Khorasan Province.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish.
KURMANJI <i>Alternate names:</i> NORTHERN KURDISH, KERMANJI, KIRMANJI.	[KMR]	200,000 in Iran (1983 estimate). Mountain villages along the Turkey border region in the west of West Azerbaijan Province.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish.
LURI <i>Alternate names:</i> LUR, LOR, LORI.	[LRI]	4,280,000 in Iran (1993) including 680,000 Bakhtiari (1989).	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri.
MAZANDERANI <i>Alternate names:</i> TABRI.	[MZN]	3,265,000 or 4.7% of the population (1993). Northern Iran near Caspian Sea, southern half of Mazandaran Province.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Caspian.
PARSI-DARI <i>Alternate names:</i> PARSEE-DARI.	[PRD]	Population total both countries 350,000 or more.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran.
PASHTO, SOUTHERN <i>Alternate names:</i> PASHTU, PAKTU.	[PBT]	113,000 in Iran (1993). Khorasan on Afghanistan border east of Qa'en.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pashto.
QASHQAI' <i>Alternate names:</i> QASHQAY, QASHQAI', KASHKAI.	[QSQ]	1,500,000 (1997), or 2.38% of the population (1997). Southwestern Iran, Fars Province; southern pasture in winter, northern in summer. Shiraz is a center.	Altaic, Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani.
TAKESTANI <i>Alternate names:</i> TAKISTANI.	[TKS]	220,000. Various towns and villages in the mainly Azerbaijani-speaking region from Khalkhal to Saveh, especially in Takestan and villages to the south and southeast.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh.

<i>Language</i>	<i>GNDB – ISO Dialect Code</i>	<i>Number Speakers, Location</i>	<i>Genetic Affiliation</i>
TALYSH <i>Alternate names:</i> TALISH, TALESH, TALISHI.	[TLY]	112,000 in Iran (1993). Along the Caspian Sea up to Kepri-chal, northwest Gilan Province along coastal plain. Northern Talyshi is centered around Astara and the Caspian littoral in Azerbaijan; Central Talyshi is centered around the Asalem-Hashtpar area along the Caspian littoral in northwestern Iran; Southern Talyshi is centered around Shandermen, Masal, Masule, and surrounding mountainous areas in Gilan Province.	Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh.
TURKMEN <i>Alternate names:</i> TORKOMANI.	[TCK]	2,000,000 in Iran (1997), or 3.17% of the population (1997). Northeast, mainly in Mazandaran Province, along the Turkmenistan border; important centers are Gonbad-e Kavus and Pahlavi Dezh.	Altaic, Turkic, Southern, Turkmenian.

Source: Ethnologue.

Appendix B. Map of Languages Spoken in Iran

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Appendix C. BGN/PCGN 1956 Transliteration System for Persian

The GNPS Transliteration Method Code for this transliteration system is BGNFAS1956.

[INSERT BGN/PCGN PERSIAN TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM]

Appendix D: Comparison of Transliteration Systems for Persian

	BGN/PCGN	NCC	ALA- LC	IC-PN	DMG	EI	ISO 233-3	UN
ا	(-) ¹	(-) ¹	(-)	(-)	'	'	(-)	(-)
ب	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
پ	p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p
ت	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t
ث	<u>s</u>	s	<u>s</u>	s	<u>s</u>	th	<u>s</u>	<u>s</u>
ج	j	j	j	j	ǧ	dj	(?)	j
چ	ch	č	ch	ch	č	č	č	ch
ح	ḥ	h	ḥ	h	ḥ	ḥ	ḥ	ḥ
خ	kh	x	kh	kh	ḫ	kh	k	kh
د	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
ذ	<u>z</u>	z	<u>z</u>	z	<u>z</u>	dh	<u>z</u>	<u>z</u>
ر	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r
ز	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z
ژ	zh	ž	zh	zh	ž	zh	ž	zh
س	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s
ش	sh	š	sh	sh	š	sh	š	sh
ص	ṣ	s	ṣ	s	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ
ض	<u>z</u>	z	<u>z</u>	z	ž	ḍ	ž	<u>z</u>
ط	ṭ	t	ṭ	t	ṭ	ṭ	ṭ	ṭ
ظ	ẓ	z	ẓ	z	ẓ	ẓ	ẓ	ẓ
ع	`	ʔ	`	(-)	`	`	(?)	`
غ	gh	q	gh	gh	ġ	gh	ġ	gh
ف	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
ق	q	q	q	gh	q	q	q	q
ك	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
گ	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g
ل	l	l	l	l	l	l	l	l
م	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
ن	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
و	v	v	v	v	v	w	v	v
ه	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
ة	(-)	(?)	t	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)
ی	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
ی	lā	(?)	lā	lā	lā	lā	lā	lā

Key

BGN/PCGN: 1958 System of Board on Geographic Names (BGN) and Permanent Committee on Geographic Names (PCGN)

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NCC: Broad transcription system of the National Cartography Center and Iranian Committee on the Standardization of Geographic Names (22nd UNGEGN Conference, Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2004).

ALA-LC: American Library Association, Library of Congress System

IC-PN: Intelligence Standard for the Transliteration of Farsi Names in Final Written Reports and Products, 26 March 2004.

DMG: Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft.

EI: *Encyclopedia of Islam*.

UN: United Nations recommended Farsi transliteration system.

Source: Thomas T. Pedersen, <http://ee.www.ee/transliteration>

Note 1: Depends on context.

Note 2: treatment of vowels varies from system to system as well.

Appendix E. Pronunciation of Persian and Romanized Persian Letters.

Persian Letter	BGN Romanized Form	English Pronunciation
ب	b	/b/ as in 'Boston'
پ	p	/p/ as in 'Peoria'
ت	t	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ث	s	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ج	j	/j/ as in 'Johnstown'
چ	ch	/ch/ as in 'Chattanooga'
ح	h	/h/ as in 'Hyattsville'
خ	kh	no English equivalent: pronounce like /ch/ in Scottish 'loch', or like German 'Ach!'
د	d	/d/ as in 'Detroit'
ذ	z	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ر	r	/r/ as in 'Reno'
ز	z	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ژ	zh	/zh/ as in 'measure'
س	s	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ش	sh	/sh/ as in 'Sharpsburg'
ص	s	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ض	z	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ط	t	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ظ	z	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ع	`	glottal stop (glottal catch) as in 'uh-oh'
غ	gh	no English equivalent (closest is /g/ as in 'Gotham'). Pronounce like Arabic qaf.
ف	f	/f/ as in 'Fayetteville'

Persian Letter	BGN Romanized Form	English Pronunciation
ق	q	no English equivalent (closest is /g/ as in 'Gotham'). Pronounce like Arabic qaf.
ك	k	/k/ as in 'California'
گ	g	/g/ as in 'Gotham'
ل	l	/l/ as in 'Londonderry'
م	m	/m/ as in 'Monaco'
ن	n	/n/ as in 'New Mexico'
و	v	/v/ as in 'Vegas'
ه	h	/h/ as in 'Hyattsville'
ة	(-)	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ی	y	/y/ as in 'Youngstown'
zebar (fatheh)	a	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
zir	e	/eh/ as in 'Denver'
(pīsh) zammeh	o	/iy/ as in 'Reno'
zebar ālef	ā	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
ālef maqsūreh	á	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
zir yeh	ī	/iy/ as in 'Reno'
zir yeh sāken	ey	/ey/ as in 'Gaithersburg'
pīsh vav	ow	/ow/ as in 'Ocean City'

Note that, in the sequence 'khv', the 'v' is silent (unpronounced).

Appendix F: Approved Spellings of Azerbaijani etymologic elements in Persian toponyms

Sometimes it is difficult to determine which vowels and consonants should be used when transliterating a Persian toponym which derives from Azerbaijani. The following table lists approved transliterated forms of Azerbaijani words which appear in Iranian Persian geographic names. Please note that these spellings apply only to Persian-language toponyms in Iran which derive from Azerbaijani words; these spellings do not apply to Azerbaijani-language names in Iran or Azerbaijani-language names in other countries. The rules followed in preparation of these lists are:

E.1 The Azerbaijani vowels in Persian are spelled as follows: ı is spelled 'e'; ö is spelled 'ü'; ü is spelled 'ū'; ə is spelled 'a'; e is spelled as 'e'; a is spelled 'ā'; o is spelled 'ow'; u is spelled 'ū'; i is spelled 'ī'.

E.2 Azerbaijani consonants in Persian are spelled as follows: ğ is spelled 'gh'; k and q are written as 'q' when in the same syllable as a back vowel, else they are written as 'k'.

<i>Attested Persian Spellings of Azerbaijani Toponymic Elements</i>	<i>Recommended Transliterated Persian Spelling</i>	<i>Standard Azerbaijani Spelling*</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
اجاق	ojāq	ocaq	'hearth'
آریالیک	ārpālekh	arpaliq	'barley field'
آرمود	ārmud	armud	'pear'
اشک	eshshak	eşşək	'donkey'
آقا / آقا	āghā	ağa	'Sir', 'Mister'
آغاج / آج	āghāj	ağac	'tree'
آق / آغ	āgh	ağ	'white'
او	owv	ov	'hunting'
اوچ	ūch	üç	'three'
اورتا	owrtā	orta	'central', 'middle'
اوزون / اوزن	ūzūn	uzun	'long'
اوغول	owgul	oğul	'son'
اولاق	ūlāq	ulaq	'donkey'
اینجه	īnjeh	ince	'thin', 'slender'
ایل	el	el	'tribe', 'clan'
بالقچی	bāleqchī	balıqçı	'fisherman'
بلاغ	bulāq	bulaq	'spring'
بوغاز	bowghāz	boğaz	'throat', 'strait'
بیگ / بیگ	beyg	bəy	'mister', 'lord'
بیوک	būyūk	böyük	'big'
توپراق	towprāq	torpaq	'earth', 'ground'
چاوش	chāvush	çavuş	'sergeant'
چای	chāy	çay	'stream'
چغماق	chakhmāq	çaxmaq	'flint'
چل / چول	chūl	çöl	'desert'
چیچک	chīchak	çiçek	'flower'
داغ	dāgh	dağ	'mountain'
درق	dārāq	daraq	'comb'
دیبک	dībak	dibək	'mortar'
ساری	sāre	sarı	'yellow'
سرین	sarīn	sərin	'cool', 'fresh'
قاپاخ	qābākh	qabaq	'pumpkin'

<i>Attested Persian Spellings of Azerbaijani Toponymic Elements</i>	<i>Recommended Transliterated Persian Spelling</i>	<i>Standard Azerbaijani Spelling*</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
قاپوچی	qāpeche	qapıçı	'doorman'
قازان	qāzān	qazan	'kettle', 'pot'
قبان	qābān	qaban	'wild boar'
قرا / قره	qārā	qara	'black'
قرمز	qermeze	qırmızı	'red'
قزل	qezel	qızıl	'gold'
قشلاق	qeshlāq	qışlaq	'winter quarters'
قلیچ	qelech	qılınç	'sword'
قمیش	qāmesh	qamış	'reed', 'cane'
قواق	qāvāq	(qavaq)	'poplar'
قوچ	qowch	qoç	'ram', 'brave'
قوزوچی	quzuchī	quzuçu	'shepherd'
قوش	qūsh	quş	'bird'
قویون	qowyūn	qoyun	'sheep'
قیز / قر	qez	qız	'girl'
قیه	qayah	qaya	'cliff', 'rock'
گوز / گز / قوز	gūz	göz	'eye'
گوک / گوک / گوی	gūk	göy	'blue'
کوچک	kūchak	(küçük)	'small'
کوی / کوئی	qūy	?	'village'
یاتاق	yātāq	yataq	'bed'
یغمور	yaghmur	yağmur	'rain'
ینی / یئگی	yenī	yeni	'new'
یورقار	yowrgān	yorgan	'quilt'
یووا	yuvā, yuvālār (pl)	yuva, yuvlar	'nest (s)'

*Source of Azerbaijani Spellings: O. I. Musayev (ed.) (1998). Azerbaijani-English Dictionary. Bakı: Azerbaijan State Institute of Languages.